



## Scary Glenda declines to revisit a honeymoon nightmare

The la...ne I saw Glenda...n naked was in a...way carriage. I...undegraduate... was only...ection is dist...and the...nightmares were...uring yesterday when...str...Ladyman (Lab,...Steph)...invited her to...Thay him in a...railway...ac...n Kent....ca...tances had altered....s earlier railway fro...been with the young...sky, in Russia. They...n their honeymoon in...dell's film *The M...Neither the rail...rom...*

This was ungallant, and unfair. In her lean, stern way and with her beautifully severe voice, the junior Transport Minister has a strong if scary appeal. But Ladyman went a speculation too far when he suggested that Jackson would need "masochistic

tendencies" to travel with him in "an antediluvian carriage, knee-deep in filth", between Ramsgate, Dover and Ashford.

There was a growl from Jackson. "Open-minded though I am, masochism has never had any appeal for me," she said, sadistically.

There's always something weird about questions to John Prescott and his ghoulish team. Even the backbenchers seem odd. Yesterday, Ronnie Campbell's outfit was truly bizarre.

But he does enjoy a laugh. Yesterday Mr Campbell wore a blue jacket, dark trousers

### MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

note that 55-year-old Mr Campbell (Lab, Blyth Valley) is as "old" Labour as four composite resolutions and a tub of mushy peas. An unemployed miner when elected, his accent is Geordie, his complexion beaten brick, and his opinions... well, antediluvian.

But he does enjoy a laugh. Yesterday Mr Campbell wore a blue jacket, dark trousers

real loves at Questions on Environment, Transport and the Regions: moaning about the railways.

MPs formed themselves into a passable imitation of a herd of grumpy commuters on a windy railway station somewhere in the marshes of Kent. "Every day," groused John Reid, the Transport Minister, "brings a new horror story..."

"Only this morning a colleague of mine stood on a platform at Elmstead Wood while, in 20 minutes Connex cancelled three trains." Jonath-

an Shaw (Lab, Chatham & Aylesford) had brought him appalling news of Connex South Eastern's trains service to Kent.

Roger Gale (C, Thanet N) was not leaving the griping to Labour: the Margate service was "frightful". Not to be outdone, Derek Wyatt (Lab, Sittingbourne & Sheppey) wanted to discuss "the dreaded Victoria". Recently he had left Sittingbourne on the 9.15—and not arrived at Victoria until 1.15, and the journey should take an hour. MPs gasped.

There are moments in the history of these islands when the issue is just too grave to be trivialised by party-political squabbling. At such an hour, when fear and outrage stalk the land, men and women of goodwill lay aside their political allegiances to reason together.

We then see the House at its best. Thus it must be during wars and national emergencies. Thus it was during the Abdication Crisis.

And thus it is in all questions relating to the Kent railways.

## Alarm over threat to Royal Ordnance

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, MICHAEL EVANS AND PHILIP WEBSTER

HE Armed Forces may have to rely on foreign suppliers for all its ammunition stocks after British Aerospace gave warning yesterday that its Royal Ordnance factories could close in six months.

The prospect of the main British supplier of artillery shells, bullets and high explosives going out of business caused much alarm last night. Defence sources said that the Ministry of Defence no longer kept large stocks of ammunition and needed to rely on companies such as Royal Ordnance when Britain went to war.

With bitter memories of Belgium, a Nato partner, refusing to supply Britain with shells when stocks ran low during the 1991 Gulf War, the Armed Forces consider it crucial for their chief ammunition supplier to be British.

John Maples, the Shadow Defence Secretary, called on the Government to ensure that Britain maintained a "cast-iron reliable source of ammunition".

"There have been instances in the past of both France and Belgium refusing to supply weapons to us and they are friendly neighbouring countries," he said.

Mr Maples added that contracts had recently been awarded to firms in countries such as South Africa. "If we have to rely on supplies from countries outside our military alliances we are getting into a dangerous situation. The Govern-

ment has a duty to step in and safeguard our short-term supplies."

The Commons Select Committee on Defence is expected to question ministers shortly about the future of Royal Ordnance. Bruce George, the committee's Labour chairman, said that the company had been acquired by British Aerospace at a low price and had already shed workers and closed sites.

"Those that are left are making important military products and it would be hugely unfortunate if their ability to manufacture them was lost and we had to import from abroad. These are assets we can ill afford to lose," he said.

The warning from British Aerospace that it can no longer guarantee the survival of

the loss-making Royal Ordnance factories, which have manufactured ammunition since 1960, was made despite a £100 million contract awarded by the MoD before Christmas to supply ammunition for the next five years.

Last night a spokesman for the MoD said that efforts were being made to forge a partnering arrangement with Royal Ordnance to keep it in business, but that no deal was imminent. British Aerospace believes that a deal could involve a cash injection or guaranteed sales, but the MoD said that Royal Ordnance could also set up joint ventures with a foreign company.

British Aerospace has been discussing a joint venture between Royal Ordnance and Rheinmetall, a German de-

fence firm since 1997, but the German company has yet to make a specific proposal.

Bae said that it would start closing Royal Ordnance plants by the summer unless it could find a strategic partner for the business. Although 15,000 Royal Ordnance jobs have been lost since BAE bought the company in 1987, it still employs 4,100 people on 12 sites and providing jobs for thousands more in support industries.

The company has seen losses mount after a major downturn in demand for its bullets and high explosives since the end of the Cold War. Over the past ten years the MoD has cut its ammunition orders from £350 million a year to £150 million. Overseas sales have also been affected.

The Royal Ordnance plant at Bishopston, near Glasgow, which employs 300 people has already been earmarked for closure.

Robin Southwell, the managing director of BAE's defence systems group, said that BAE was "bearing a considerable burden" and running out of third-party options.

The news will dismay the Government which is already struggling to protect about 50,000 jobs associated with Rover's Longbridge car plant in the West Midlands, which may be closed by BMW. Its German parent.

Business page 21

### FROM DRAKE TO THATCHER

The Royal Ordnance began life in 1560, when a group of gunpowder manufacturers started work at Waltham Abbey, Essex. The long war with Spain meant that Sir Francis Drake was buying all the gunpowder it could produce. He set up a second armory in Woolwich to keep captured guns.

Over the centuries, the two camps provided arms for the Battle of Waterloo and the Boer War. In the

First World War there were 200 other munitions factories and by 1948 there were 48 with 40,000 staff.

The Labour government decided to diversify them into civil engineering — making trains, engines and chemical fertilisers.

In 1985 the Thatcher Government decided to sell off the remaining factories to Rover's Longbridge car plant in the West Midlands, which may be closed by BMW. Its German parent.

Business page 21



Firmly in the middle of the road: Tony Blair with Jimmy Young yesterday

## Blair keeps his cool with the JY Prog

BY PETER BARNARD

DANCE music was playing when Tony Blair walked into a BBC radio studio in London yesterday. The Prime Minister asked Jimmy Young, off-air: Is this M People? It was. What with M People, Frank Sinatra 14 minutes into the interview and a guitar track by a couple of ex-Shadows 15 minutes later. Radio 2's centrist music policy was firmly in place. Enough to make any new Labour Prime Minister feel at home.

Jimmy Young's show, with about 3.4 million listeners, is a favoured staging post for politicians reaching out to the people. Mr Blair's previous venture was the appearance on ITV's *This Morning*, during which the Prime Minister nudged Glenn Hoddle a step nearer to his next life.

Nothing so dramatic occurred yesterday. The questions mainly focused on health and education. Young, who is either 74 or 75 depending on which branch of the BBC personnel office you consult, is by no means a soft-touch interviewer and he has a statistic for every occasion.

Mr Blair, like most politicians, is a past master at ignoring, repolishing or inventing statistics, so that a typical question, about the 15,000 alleged failures in the teaching profession (why haven't you cleared out the no-hoppers?) elicited a reply about the others: Let's celebrate the fact that the vast bulk of them are up to the job.

There was an awkward moment when Young, who has interviewed every Prime Minister since Edward Heath in 1973, raised the fact that Mr Blair retained huge personal popularity even amid ministerial resignations and other calamities. Young was quite determined to compare Mr Blair's popularity with that of President Clinton. Mr Blair, for some reason,

was unenthusiastic: there are no smoking cigars in the Downing Street ashtray. The Prime Minister eventually conceded that the reason why [Mr Clinton] has risen above some of the difficulties is because people perceive him to be running a competent economy and that he is trying to tackle the big issues there.

Mr Blair avoided another mine when he refused to say whether he might step down as Prime Minister after winning the next election. "I take nothing for granted and I haven't even thought about future intentions... the public has a very clear way of dealing with politicians who get above themselves."

There were no really personal questions, so there was nothing to match the famous occasion when Young got John Major to confess that he tucks his shirt into his underpants.

But Young did refer to Baroness Thatcher, recent remark that Mr Blair was becoming bossy. The Prime Minister started as if about to cite pots and kettles but thought better of it: "I don't think I'm bossy but it's important to give a lead."

Mr Blair's second appearance on the JY Prog since he became Prime Minister ended with Young hoping that he would come back soon. Mr Blair has appeared on the show four times in all, twice as Leader of the Opposition, but he is a long way off the all-comers' record, held by Lady Thatcher with 14 appearances.

### Aid for Rover played down

Tony Blair yesterday played down the prospect of a government rescue package for Rover's beleaguered car plant at Longbridge. There was no question of the Government single-handedly providing the formula that would keep the site alive.

"The days of picking winners are long gone," the Prime Minister told the *Jimmy Young* programme.

He held out the prospect, however, of limited financial aid if it could be matched by a firm commitment from Rover's parent company, BMW. He confirmed that he had raised the issue with Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, in Amman on Monday.

Rover and BMW have been told that Longbridge could qualify for a sizeable grant from the DTT's regional selective assistance fund.

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## Explicit chat shows may be sanitised

TEARFUL confessions and sexual revelations on popular chat shows such as *Vanessa* and *The Jerry Springer Show* could be sanitised after the broadcasting watchdog commissioned an academic study to draw up a code of conduct (Adam Sherwin writes).

The Broadcasting Standards Commission has asked Stirling University to carry out a 12-month research project to examine the effect on viewers and participants and to devise guidelines. A report by the watchdog last month disclosed that nearly half of viewers said there was too much discussion

about sex on daytime shows.

One Jerry Springer show was entitled *Mister sleep with my three husbands*.

Stirling University will interview programme producers and conduct focus groups with viewers. Brian McNair of the university, which won a £50,000 contract to carry out the research, said: "People are worried about the divisions between fact and fiction, between private and public."

Lady Howe of Aberavon, chairwoman of the commission, said: "There is not a universal climate of tolerance towards explicit material, particularly if it is gratuitous."

## Suspended deputy set for Glasgow job

BY GILLIAN HARRIS  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

GLASGOW'S deputy Lord Provost emerged as the favourite candidate to take over the top job yesterday after the announcement that the city's civic leader is to stand down.

Baillie Alex Mossion, who, along with the Lord Provost, Pat Lally, was suspended from the Labour Party two years ago after allegations that councillors were accepting trips in return for political support, is understood to have won backing from within the council's ruling Labour group.

The charges against Mr Lally

and Mr Mossion were later dropped by the Labour Party after the Court of Session granted them a judicial review. The men were then allowed to rejoin the party.

Yesterday Mr Lally, who has held the Lord Provost's post for three years and led Glasgow City Council for eight years, said he was leaving in May to write his memoirs. "I decided it was better to go when I was at the top. Glasgow is now UK City of Architecture. That's a high point for the city and it seemed a good time to go."

Mr Lally declined to name his preferred successor.

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# Accused in war crimes trial 'embraced the Final Solution with enthusiasm'

**Tim Jones** on court allegation that former BR ticket collector was one of first to volunteer for Nazi police

BRITAIN'S first war crimes trial was told yesterday that the 77-year-old accused man had helped to kill Jews "with enthusiasm" after embracing the Nazi policy of the Final Solution.

Anthony Sawoniuk faces four charges of murder under the War Crimes Act, allegedly committed in his native Belarus, but is accused of murdering many more.

John Nutting, QC, for the prosecution, told an Old Bailey jury in measured, dispassionate tones of the horror that befell the predominantly Jewish village of Domachevo after it had been overrun by the Nazi war machine in 1941.

Mr Sawoniuk, a former British Rail ticket collector from Bermondsey, South London, displayed no emotion as Mr Nutting outlined the case against him in a crowded Court No 12. Dressed in a brown suit and checked cardigan, he sat not in the dock but in the well of the court.

Mr Nutting said that Mr Sawoniuk was among the first to volunteer for the local police force set up by the Nazis who, on the Yom Kippur holy day in September 1942, massacred 2,900 Jews. Some other Jews had managed to flee to a forest or to hide in the village ghetto, where they were confined behind barbed wire.

Although there is no evidence that Mr Sawoniuk, who was made commander of the police force, took part in the original massacre, he was prominent in the search-and-kill operation aimed at those who had escaped.

Referring to the four murder charges, Mr Nutting said: "On each count, say the Crown, this defendant executed Jewish men and women whose only offence was to be Jewish and who had escaped the main massacre of several thousand Jews when the ghetto in Domachevo was liquidated.

"The evidence indicates, in our submission, that the defendant not only was prepared to do the Nazi bidding, but carried out their genocidal policy with enthusiasm."

Mr Nutting said that survivors from the ghetto, where Jews were starving and freezing to death in one of the worst winters on record, were rounded up and marched down a track that became known as the "road of death". It led to an execution site known as the sand hills, where they were forced to strip before being shot.

Five days after the main

## THE CHARGES

Anthony Sawoniuk faces four charges under the War Crimes Act of 1991 of committing murders "in circumstances constituting a violation of the laws and customs of war".

That, between September 19 and 27, 1942, in Domachevo, Belarusia, a town under German occupation, he murdered a Jewess; and, between September 19 and October 4, 1942, in Domachevo, he murdered a Jew known as Schlemis; that, between the same dates, in Domachevo, he murdered another Jewess; and that, between September 19, 1942, and December 31, 1942, also in Domachevo, he murdered a Jew known as Mir Barias.

massacre, Mr Nutting said, one witness, Alexander Bagay, and a friend were taken to the sand hills. They saw two Jewish men, aged about 40, and a Jewish woman, aged about 20, who were wearing the distinctive yellow patches on their clothing.

Mr Sawoniuk ordered the Jews to undress. Mr Nutting said: "The girl was too embarrassed to remove her clothes until Mr Sawoniuk shouted at her. He ordered the Jews to face the ready-dug grave, took out his pistol and shot each one in the head from behind.

As he fired, he pushed each victim forward into the grave. Mr Sawoniuk ordered the two young men to fill in the grave and return the shovels to the police station.

Another witness, Fedor Zan, Mr Nutting said, recalled a day when he heard women crying on the outskirts of the town. Keeping hidden, he went to investigate and saw about 15 Jewish women of mixed ages standing in front of an open grave.

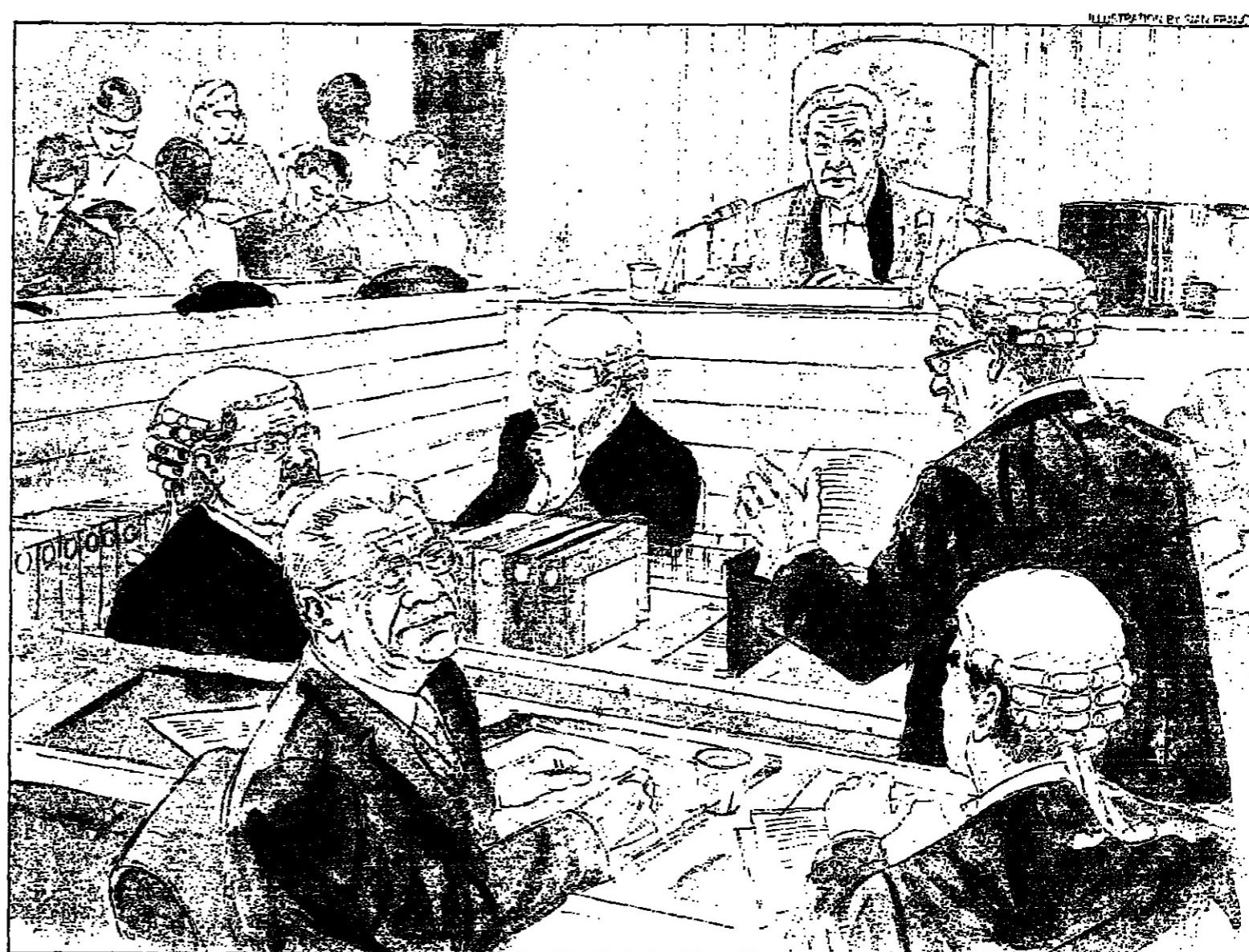
"The defendant was standing behind the women armed with a sub-machinegun," Mr Nutting said. "He ordered the women to remove their clothes and then shot them with the

**'He ordered Jews to face the ready-dug grave, took out his pistol and shot each one in the head from behind'**

weapon. As they died, they collapsed into the grave."

Mr Zan, he said, had known Mr Sawoniuk since their schooldays. "He had watched the defendant's transition from schoolboy to policeman, from being just another youngster to being one of those exercising a ruthless authority over Jew and gentile alike."

Mr Nutting said that Mr



An artist's impression of the Old Bailey court where Anthony Sawoniuk faces War Crimes charges described by John Nutting, QC

Andrusha, which he acquired at an early age.

"That name is so fixed in the consciousness of the survivors from that period that those who do not remember the defendant's Christian or surname remember him as Andrusha," Mr Nutting said. Mr

Sawoniuk had married a Russian midwife called Anna during the Nazi occupation, but she was killed in crossfire during a partisans' attack on the police station.

Before the war most of the inhabitants of the thriving spa town of Domachevo were Jews. Only 10 per cent were Poles, Ukrainians and Belarusians.

"The relations between the races in this area was generally peaceful and harmonious and there was little antisemitism," said Mr Nutting. All that changed after the Nazi invasion.

Mr Nutting said: "It is apparent that the defendant carried out his police duties as a policeman conscientiously. He frequently searched Jews on

their journeys in and out of the ghetto and if he found any forbidden item in the possession of a Jew, he invariably assaulted the culprit.

"One day a young Jewess, on return to the ghetto from work on a farm, tried to smuggle some potatoes into the ghetto. Mr Sawoniuk found them, beat her savagely, arrested her and put her in detention.

"It is clear that the Germans had greater faith in the defendant than in most of his colleagues in the police force. Not only did they promote him, but he was also permitted to

carry a firearm at all times."

Mr Nutting said that, when interviewed by Scotland Yard officers investigating war crimes, Mr Sawoniuk, who came to Britain shortly after the Second World War, initially denied being in the police.

He said that he had been deported to do forced labour in Germany.

However, he did not now dispute that he served as a policeman in Domachevo at the relevant time, nor that he was regarded by others as a senior officer, "nor that he left Domachevo in 1944 in compa-

nity with the Nazis as they fled.

However, by his plea of not guilty he denies participation in the murders on the four occasions described in the indictment.

Mr Sawoniuk had told Scotland Yard that anyone who accused him of killing Jews was an idiot, because the Jews had helped him by giving him food when he worked for them and that "he would not go against such people".

Those who had made the allegations "destroy other people's lives. If I was guilty I would tell my solicitor, so I volunteered to come to the police station and tell you what I can."

"No one can put a finger on me that I killed a Jew. The people who gave you that evidence are liars. The people over there will tell you anything for a couple of bob. They know nothing about what went on during the war."

"Those people still living in Domachevo probably did more damage than I did and I did no damage at all. They are still there and I have to suffer. The people who have given evidence to you are lying."

The trial continues.

## Trainspotting author went off the rails

BY SUSIE STEINER

IRVINE WELSH, the best-selling author of *Trainspotting*, has re-enacted the gritty social realism of his novels with a five-hour spell in a police cell. He was arrested for being drunk and disorderly after travellers complained of abusive behaviour on a train from London to Exeter.

Welsh, 41, who earns an estimated £1 million a year in royalties from his novels, was met from the train at Exeter's St David's station by British Transport Police. Inspector Nick Garrold said: "Mr Welsh continued to be quarrelsome and was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. He was put into the cells to sober up and reflect. He was released about 5½ hours later, having been formally cautioned."

Welsh, who alternates between homes in North London and Edinburgh's New Town, suffered punishing reviews last week after the opening of his play, *You'll Have Had Your Hole*, at London's Astoria. The play, featuring anal rape, torture and drug-taking, peppered with expletives, was described by one critic as "the most obnoxious and contemptible" he had seen.

A spokeswoman for Welsh said yesterday that the author's arrest last Friday came as a result of continued partying in celebration of the play's opening night last Wednesday. "There was a major celebrity party after the first night, when Irvine started drinking for the first time since Christmas. He continued celebrating until Friday, and that led

## Rowland widow is left £26m in will

BY JOANNA BALE

THE widow of Tiny Rowland, the business magnate, has been left more than £26 million in his will.

Mr Rowland, who died of cancer in July aged 80, had a fortune estimated at £650 million, most of which was held in a complex series of offshore trusts and funds. He was said to have been wryly amused by the fact that his wealth three years ago equated with that of the Queen.

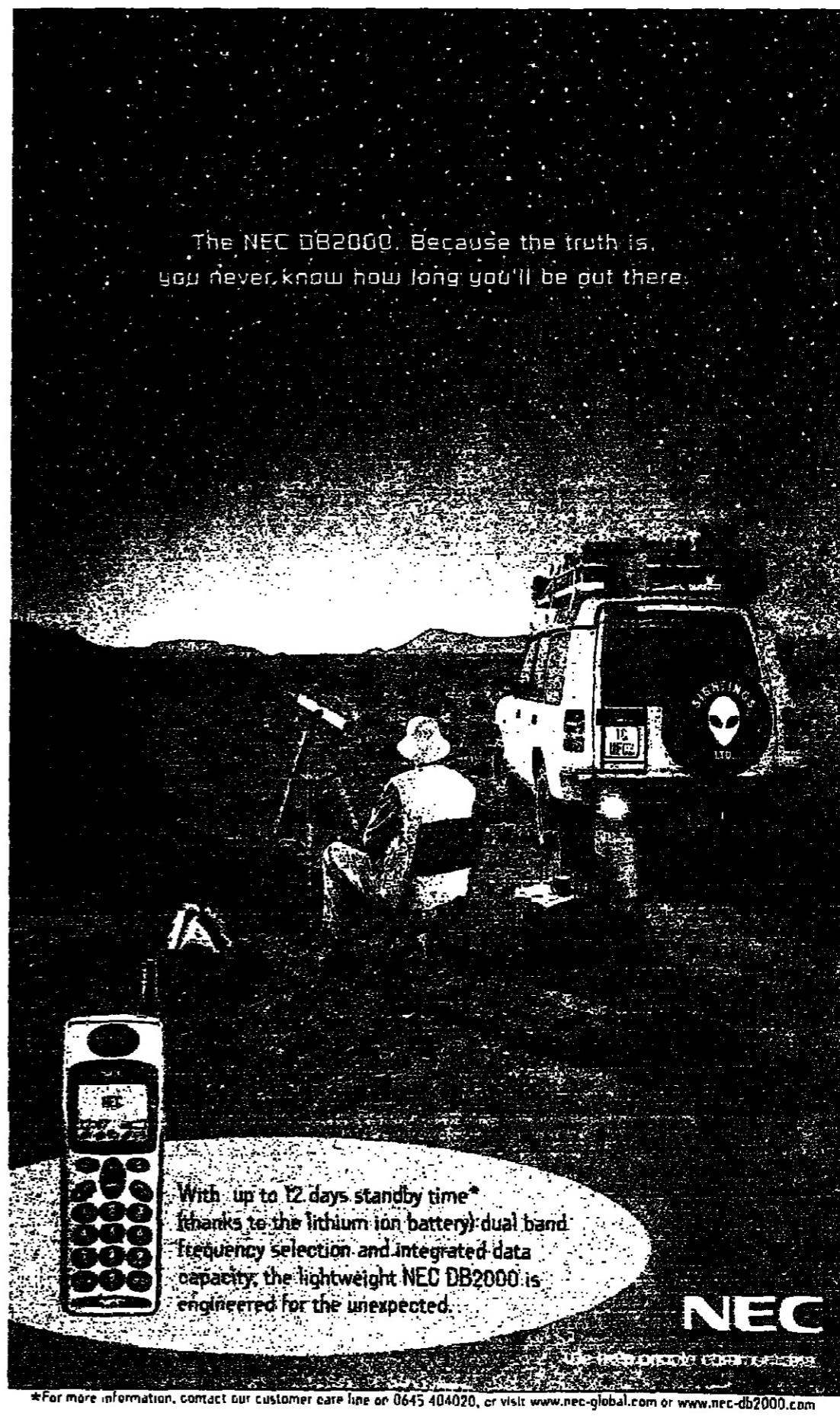
The will, which was published yesterday, is understood to relate only to his assets in Britain, including family houses in Chester Square, Belgravia and Bourne End, Buckinghamshire. The sum also includes the value of his 150ft yacht, the *Hanee*, shares registered in Britain and several bank accounts he used for everyday expenses.

His widow, Josie, and their son and three daughters are also expected to benefit from the rest of his fortune, much of which is banked in Switzerland. The children, Toby, Andi, Louisa and Plum, are all in their twenties and unmarried.

Toby, 28, owns a flat off Eaton Square, Belgravia, and works for the Walt Disney company; Andi and Louisa share a flat off Chester Square, Belgravia, while Plum lives with her mother.

The couple married 30 years ago when she was 24. He had known her all her life as the daughter of an engineer who ran factories for him in Britain and who became his farm manager in Rhodesia.

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**TV soap actor dies**

BY CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE cast of Coronation Street was in mourning last night after one of its best-loved members, Bryan Mosley, died at the age of 67.

Mr Mosley, who had until New Year's Eve had played the portly shopkeeper Alf Roberts in the Granada soap opera, collapsed in the street in Shipley, West Yorkshire, yesterday afternoon. He was his wife, Norma, who was withdrawing money for a holiday in Venice when he is believed to have had a heart attack.

Mr Mosley, who had suffered heart problems in the past, was taken to Bradford Royal Infirmary, but was pronounced dead on arrival. His ill health had been behind the producers' decision to retire him from the programme after appearing in it since 1961.

William Roache, who plays Ken Barlow, said: "We had hoped that after his retirement, Bryan would have had many more years with his family. He was a very good man and a great actor. He will be sorely missed."



Welsh rail passengers complained about him

Mosley, 37 years in Coronation Street



# The worst may not be over for meningitis town

After three deaths, a pupil is critically ill and parents blame official delay, reports Simon de Bruxelles

DOCTORS will not know for nearly a week whether they have contained an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis that has killed three people in one small town.

More than 1,700 pupils and staff at three schools in Pontypridd, South Wales, were vaccinated against the disease yesterday. Seven children are in hospital, bringing the total of cases in the area to 11.

Stuart Mortram, 16, was last night described as "very critically ill". He was a pupil at the same school as Gareth Gould, 15, who died last week. Stuart's parents were praying at his bedside in the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. A child aged 11 was described as "critical but improving".

Despite the mass vaccination and the distribution of antibiotics to everyone who had been in close contact with the sick, the doctor in charge of the public health operation gave a warning that it was too early to say if the outbreak was over.

Merion Evans, a specialist in communicable diseases with Bro Taf Health Authority, said: "We have had no cases in school pupils since Saturday, but we still have a number of days before the incubation period has run its course."

He defended the health authority's decision not to issue antibiotics to children after Gareth's death a week last Sunday. National guidelines advise mass treatment only after more than one case.

Many parents, including those of Lisa Pearn, 15, who is recovering at the East Glamorgan General Hospital, said

that the authorities could have prevented the illness spreading if they had acted sooner.

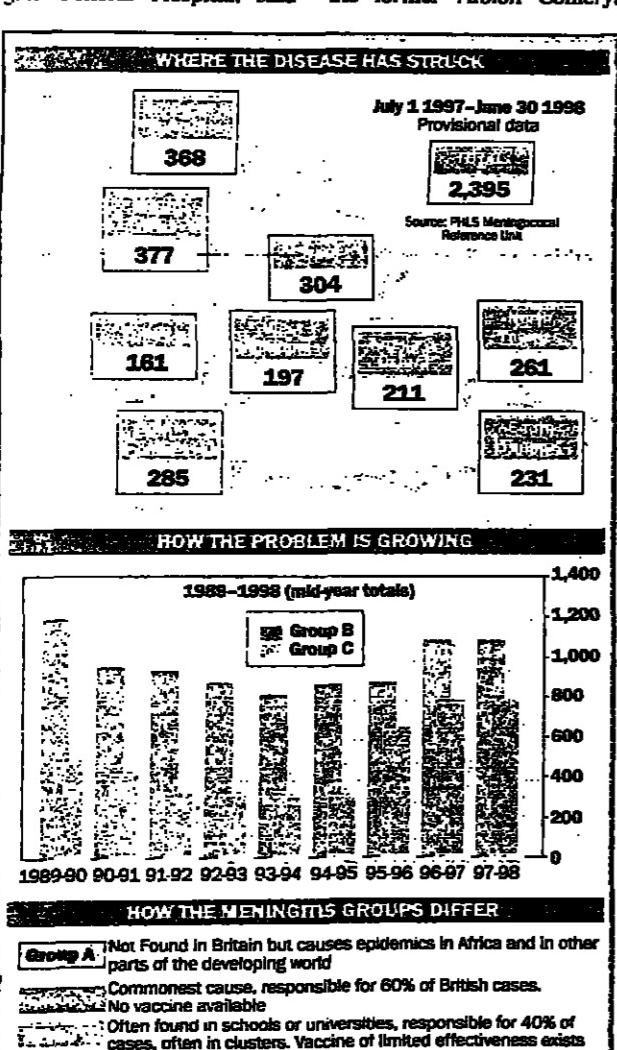
On Monday evening, after the declaration of a public health emergency, 38 children were taken to the hospital in Pontypridd. A further 20 had been taken in by lunchtime yesterday. All were allowed home after examination.

On a cold, bright morning, 1,100 pupils from Coed-y-Lan Comprehensive School filed in for their injections. Some were brought by parents while others arrived in a convoy of white school buses, nervously aware that the disease is believed to be spread by close contact in confined spaces. Subsidied and apprehensive, few stayed to talk to school friends. Many had not been to school since Gareth died within hours of being taken ill.

Similar scenes were evident at the comprehensive's lower school in the centre of town and at Treboralt Primary, each of which has had two pupils fall ill with the disease. All were relieved that the governors had decided to close the schools until after the half-term holiday next week. Few believed the reassurance of the health authority that the chances of contracting the infection at school were tiny.

Richard Male, 16, said: "If they hadn't closed [Coed-y-Lan], no one would have come in anyway. My parents have kept me off since last week. I've had several people in Ponty ask where I go to school. Some of them are just curious, but others look nervous."

The school is on the site of the former Albion Colliery.



## Better vaccine is on the way

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE form of meningitis responsible for the cases in Pontypridd has become much more common in recent years.

Group C meningitis – caused by a particular form of the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis* – is particularly common in teenagers and seems more prone to causing clusters of cases.

It reached Britain in the early 1990s, probably from Canada, where it had caused outbreaks similar to the one in Pontypridd. In vulnerable people it can cause extremely rapid development of symptoms, and death.

"Some will get very ill very quickly, but in others it is not so life-threatening," according to Julia Warren, of the Meningitis Research Foundation. "We don't know why it affects some people one way and others quite differently."

Nor is it known why people in their late teens or early twenties are so vulnerable. Babies are at greatest risk because their immune systems have yet to develop fully, but the next highest incidence is in those aged 15 to 19.

A research project at the In-

situte of Child Health in London aims to discover why this group is so vulnerable. Suspicion rests on the changes in lifestyle they experience as students: a wider social life, smoking, drinking, new relationships and possibly also the stress of exams and being away from home are all seen as possible factors.

A vaccine against Group C meningitis does exist, but it is not very effective. It does not work when given to babies under two, and provides only a few years' protection. That is why it is only used to protect populations at high risk during an outbreak. A better vaccine is on the way, as the result of work by the Public Health Laboratory Service and other British organisations.

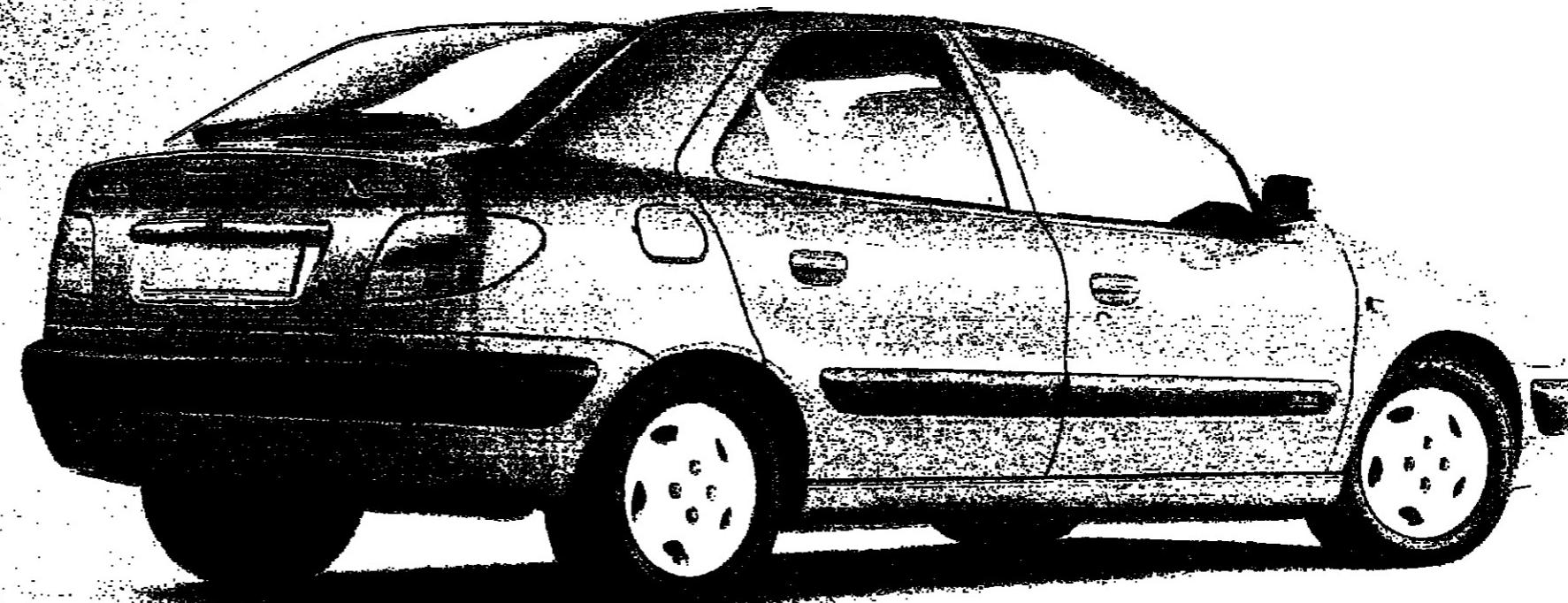
Early results are said to be "very encouraging", but are incomplete. The vaccine will not be ready until 2001 or 2002.

Trials are being delayed by the reluctance of mothers to volunteer their children.

Meningococcal bacteria are far from rare. The risk is not of being infected with the bacterium, but of being one of those who proves vulnerable.



Children at Coed-y-Lan Comprehensive School after receiving vaccinations yesterday. A fellow pupil has died and another is in intensive care



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OST 29-11-98

# Woodhead hails big improvement in teaching standards

But gap between good and bad remains too wide, writes John O'Leary

STATE schools have achieved a big improvement in standards despite there still being up to 15,000 incompetent teachers in English classrooms, the Chief Inspector of Schools reported yesterday.

Chris Woodhead, in his annual report as head of the Ofsted inspection agency, said the proportion of unsatisfactory lessons had dropped from almost 25 per cent five years ago to 8 per cent in the past school year. He expected the proportion to fall still further in the next 12 months.

Mr Woodhead said: "Looking back over the five years, I think the state of the nation's schools is much healthier than it was." The proportion of unsatisfactory lessons had dropped by 50 per cent in a single year, despite targeting poor secondary schools for a new round of inspections.

Partly as a result of the agency's scrutiny, behaviour and attendance had picked up, as had standards of teaching and learning, Mr Woodhead said. "The Ofsted trigger to improvement has led to a situation where more children are getting a decent education than would have been the case if it hadn't existed."

However, state education remained a "lottery" for children, with an unacceptably wide gap between good and bad schools, he said. Examination results had yet to reflect the improvement in teaching. Mr Woodhead added that

## GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

Ofsted's most improved schools are: Barking Abbey Comprehensive School, Barking; Elms School, Elstree; Bexleygate GM School, Kings Heath, Birmingham; St Edmund Agius RC School, King's Norton, Birmingham; Bedales School, Bordon; Malvern School, Malvern; Cheshire Britain Woods Community School, Bretton, Peterborough; St Alder's County High School, Cheltenham; Bannington Comprehensive School, Bishop Auckland; Villiers, High School, Southwell; The Bishop Bell C of E School, Eastbourne; Hurstpierpoint and Chelsea School, London SW9; Hereward High School, Harrow, Middlesex; Church C of E High School, Ashford, Kent; Anglesey School, Cranbrook, Kent; Roffey School, Kirby Muxloe; Montacute High School, Morecambe, Lancashire; The Hollins County High School, Acobering, Lancashire; Alder Grange High School, Rawtenstall, Lancashire; The Beauchamp College, Cadby, Leicestershire; The Robert Smyth School, Merstham, Surrey; Allerton High School, Walton, Liverpool; St John Bosco High School, Croydon, London E7; Southfield School, Kettering; Northants Lady Llanvih School, Pickering, North Yorks; Wood Green School, Witney, Oxfordshire; Poole High School, Chardwell Heath School, Romford; Harlescott School, Shrewsbury; The City Technology College, Kings Heath, Birmingham; Whitstone Community School, Shropshire; Melton, Leicestershire; The Eastwood School, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex; The Beacon School, Redhill, Surrey; Sunningdale Grammar School, Sunningdale, Berkshire; The Royal Charter School, Gillingham, Kent; Waldegrave Girls' School, Chislehurst, Kent; Gables Hamm GfC Comprehensive School, Stamford, Lincolnshire; Marpeth School, London E2; The Clerendon School, Trowbridge, Wilts.

not make sufficient progress, they must be dismissed."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the new "fast-track" dismissal procedures were well used. "The vast majority of heads and teachers are performing miracles in the drive to raise standards. There are many more good teachers than poor teachers. Removal of those who are incompetent is becoming one of the fastest growth industries in education."

John Dunford, of the Secondary Heads Association, said the report painted an encouraging picture of vast progress.

"If the teaching profession gets the recognition it deserves, the crisis in teacher recruitment may ease."

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, welcomed the report as a vindication of Government policies. "The quality of teaching has improved and as a result, classroom standards have risen."

The report was the most upbeat of Mr Woodhead's five-year tenure of office. "There is reason for optimism," he said. "No one now, or very few, questions the need to raise standards or takes refuge in socio-economic explanations of school failure."

He acknowledged that Ofsted's concentration on poor secondary schools was likely to have inflated the figure, but said the reports would suggest that the estimate was correct. Officials believe that the decline in the number of poor lessons could be due to generally satisfactory staff teaching more consistently, leaving a rump of poor performers.

Although new procedures

are in place for sacking incompetent teachers, no figures have been released to show how extensively they have been used. Mr Woodhead said anecdotal evidence from inspectors suggested a more rigorous management style in many schools, but about 2,800 head teachers still needed to show stronger leadership.

Mr Woodhead said: "In teaching, as in any other profession, somebody who is not doing the job to the expected level must be told they are a failure and offered training to improve. If eventually they do

"superheads" turning round problem schools. "You improve a school by making steady advances across broad fronts. Our own process of regeneration has taken a decade of steady improvement."

The school attributes its success to the fact that it puts the quality of its teaching above all else. In 1989 Mr Huford inherited a school dominated by in-fighting between staff and managers and has restored the

credibility of their advice to staff runs incredibly high as a result."

## Hard work brings top marks

BY HANNAH BETTS

THE staff at Erith School in Bexley, South London, are proud of its Ofsted mark for making particular improvement — something the head teacher attributes to solid hard work rather than any managerial miracle cure.

Toby Huford, head for ten years, is suspicious of talk of

1990s dictum that head teachers should distance themselves from the classroom.

"The school has no managers who aren't involved in teaching — myself included. The people who achieved the highest grades for their teaching were our senior management team. The credibility of their advice to staff runs in-

credibly high as a result."

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Neil Yates, back with his children, George and Joanne, and wife, Alison. "There is nothing to forgive," she said

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A STRESSED farmworker who vanished more than six months ago apologised to his wife and two young children yesterday after police reunited the family.

Neil Yates, 37, had been living in guest houses more than 200 miles from home. He said he had disappeared because of the stress of his job as harvest approached.

He said: "I didn't realise that I had caused so much trouble. All I can say is I am sorry for all the fuss I have caused. I left home because I was having trouble doing my job and with my home life.

"I didn't want to let anyone down. But in the end I did let everyone down. I wanted a few days on my own and then I couldn't come back."

His wife, Alison, 28, who

## Man missing for 6 months returns

welcomed him home with a hug at their tied cottage in Flawborough, Nottinghamshire, spoke of the discoveries that kept her hope alive.

Although he left behind his car, wallet, credit cards, passport and keys, Mr Yates was found to have taken spare clothes. Then it was discovered that he had used his computer to check train times to Kent, where he was found. Police also discovered that, on the morning he disappeared, he had withdrawn £3,000 from a savings account his wife did not know existed.

Mrs Yates, mother of

tel in Folkestone, disappeared after failing to arrive at a friend's wedding in Somerset last July. Promising to join his wife after she had travelled abroad, his last words in a telephone call were: "I love you."

Mr Yates added: "I couldn't face going to the wedding because of the problems at work. It was a social event and I couldn't handle it."

"I just want to say that my ex-employer, John Haworth, is a friend and he wasn't to blame for what happened."

"I felt dreadful about leaving the children. I now plan to go for counselling and I want to get out of farming. My advice to people suffering from stress is to talk to others and tell them how you feel, rather than go away as I did."

## Iris Murdoch's funeral plea

BY DALIA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

IRIS MURDOCH had explicitly requested that there be no funeral or memorial service in her honour, her literary agent said yesterday.

Ed Victor, her friend and agent of 15 years, said that his office had been inundated with calls from readers wanting to take part in some form of commemoration for the writer, but he had urged them to reread one of her novels instead.

One option open to those wanting a minimum of fuss after their death is to have an unattended cremation with no service or ceremony. Alison Samuel, the publish-

ing director of Chatto and Windus, Murdoch's publisher, said that the author's wish to avoid a fuss being made of her demonstrated her modesty. "She never sought publicity. She'd come in with her typed scripts, quietly, with no fanfare," Ms Samuel said.

Ms Samuel said that Murdoch's death, however, was still likely to boost the sales of her books. "That's the awful thing about life and death. It takes someone to die for people to recognise their literary worth. Iris Murdoch has always been recognised as one of the great writers this century, but people forget from time to time."

Murdoch, who died on Monday after a

long period of suffering from Alzheimer's disease, asked Mr Victor several years ago to be her literary executor. He said yesterday that he did not believe there were any unpublished book manuscripts.

"If Iris herself didn't want a novel published, there is no reason it should be published now," he said. "She left behind a tremendous legacy. I've always been disappointed that she was never given a Nobel."

However, Mr Victor said that Murdoch may have left a vast archive of letters, as she "spent hours writing an immense correspondence". Instead of simply signing a contract, he said, she would return it with the most "charming note".

## Doctors clash over checks on failures

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of senior doctors is in revolt against plans by the General Medical Council to bring in a centralised checking system to ensure that all doctors are fit to practise.

The plans, aimed at restoring public confidence in the profession after recent well-publicised failures, were expected to be rubber-stamped by the 104 council members meeting today. However, Edwin Borman, a consultant anaesthetist at Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry, has circulated all other council members with a plan for a local system which he says is cheaper, more efficient and less bureaucratic.

"I have already had widespread support and interest in my ideas from members and the debate in council will be very lively and even," he said. "We have never had the chance to debate the GMC's plan properly and people think it is being imposed on them without being properly thought through."

Public and Government confidence in the profession has been dented by failures at the Bristol heart-surgery unit and the negligence of Rodney Ledward, the Kent gynaecologist whose operations injured scores of women. The GMC is aware that, if it fails, the Government is ready to scrap the system that allows the profession to police itself.

Dr Borman, a former chairman of the BMA's junior doctors committee, says that a locally centred system makes it possible to identify doctors with problems at an earlier stage and would also make allowances for the environment in which staff were working.

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'Someone is not telling the truth. We cannot ascertain what that truth is' says damning report on handling of Sandline affair. Valerie Elliott reports

## MPs condemn 'Yes Minister' contempt

SIR JOHN KERR, the Foreign Office Permanent Secretary, headed a cast of civil servants accused by MPs yesterday of 'Yes Minister'-like contempt over the arms-to-Africa affair.

He was accused of failing in his duty to ministers — one of the most serious criticisms of a civil servant. The damning indictment of officials at every rank dominated the report by the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

It castigated them for failing to brief ministers about alleged sanctions-busting by Sandline International, a firm of military consultants which was supplying arms to help to restore the deposed government of President Kabba.

It criticised them for failing

to brief ministers about alleged sanctions-busting by Sandline International, a firm of military consultants which was supplying arms to help to restore the deposed government of President Kabba.

Sierra Leone in defiance of a UN embargo. Sir John was said to have withheld details of a Customs inquiry into Sandline's activities from Robin Cook for four weeks, even after

Customs investigators had

been informed that the whole affair could be seen as buying time to ensure that officials' backs were covered.

The MPs made clear their anger with the Foreign Secretary's refusal last summer to co-operate with their inquiry while an internal investigation was being carried out by Sir Thomas Legg, a retired senior civil servant. They questioned Legg's findings after uncovering evidence that he had been 'misinformed'.

MPs were also unhappy with Mr Cook's initial refusal to allow them to inspect top secret papers and with government 'obduracy' in refusing MPs a private hearing or a briefing from Sir David Spedding, the head of MI6. However

the report cleared ministers of conniving in any plot to allow arms shipments and of misleading Parliament. Tory members of the committee said ministers should share the blame for failures but were voted down by the Labour majority.

Ministers and officials were strongly criticised for their public interpretation of the UN arms embargo. MPs stressed that, had they made clear the embargo applied equally to the Government-in-exile of President Kabba as much as to the military junta, the whole affair could have been avoided.

The report said: "Half-truths are a dangerous commodity in which to trade." The

MPs also said that never again should government policy be presented in any way that could mislead Parliament, the public or Foreign Office staff.

The most senior diplomats singled out over 'serious errors of judgment' were Richard Dales, director Africa command — who has now been promoted to Ambassador — and Ann Grant, then head of the Africa Department (Equatorial) — who has now been given Mr Dales's old job.

"The way in which no one with a right to put papers up to ministers — Ms Grant, Mr

Dales or Sir John Kerr — did in fact do so reveals at best political naivety and at worst a Yes Minister-like contempt for civil servants' duties towards their ministers."

MPs were alarmed that Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, believed the arms embargo only applied to the junta. He should have made it his business to check its precise terms.

MPs were also amazed that officials had not recognised the importance of a minute from Mr Penfold which was

"prima facie" evidence that criminal wrongdoing occurred and that the High Commissioner and the department in London might be regarded as 'complicit'.

But while MPs hailed Mr Penfold's bravery during the conflict, his relations with Sandline were judged "open to criticism". He was berated for failing for six weeks to pass on Sandline's plans to his colleagues in London. Mr Penfold insisted he had attended a meeting in the Foreign Office when he discussed his belief

there was a contract between Sandline and President Kabba.

The MPs state: "Someone is

not telling the truth. We can-

not ascertain what that truth is."

MPs were incredulous that even though Sir John knew of the Customs inquiry into Sandline for three weeks, Mr Cook only learned about it in a letter from Sandline's solicitors claiming the company had acted with the authority of the Foreign Office. "The Permanent Under-Secretary must be

held responsible for this unacceptable situation. It represents a serious failure of communication," the MPs said.

Colonel Tim Spicer of Sandline was also criticised. MPs believe there was no excuse for him not to know the rules about arms sales to Sierra Leone and stated: "If Mr Spicer truly was not aware of the Order in Council then his firm and their advisers are guilty of professional incompetence."

Simon Jenkins, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Peter Penfold, centre, in Freetown: MPs said the High Commissioner might be seen as complicit in criminal wrongdoing



Spicer: criticised for failing to know rules on arm sales



Kerr: accused of failing in his duty to ministers

Serb to vital for Kosovo peace says Co

## Penfold did talk to London

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

PETER PENFOLD continued to work in war-torn Freetown yesterday, defying death threats from rebel forces.

Intelligence sources said that a 'very high price in terms of money and prestige' had been put on the head of the British High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, a national hero in the former British colony, where he has to travel with a bodyguard of military police and a small detachment of Royal Marines.

Having returned to Freetown after a second evacuation prompted by a rebel attack on the Sierra Leone capital, Mr Penfold continues to have close contact with the democratic Government of President Kabba.

But the threats to Mr Penfold and British military personnel from rebels hiding in a forest overlooking the British High Commission and his residence mean that he spends his nights aboard HMS Westminster, a frigate stationed offshore which monitors Sierra Leone and offers humanitarian

assistance. Awarded the title of 'paramount chief' by the Kabba Government, Mr Penfold's role in the Sandline affair remains murky. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee found that he did not communicate with the Foreign Office for six crucial weeks in late 1997 and early 1998 when he was in Conakry, Guinea, with the exiled Kabba government but investigations by *The Times* have shown that he and other officials with him in Conakry did communicate with London using the German Embassy's secure systems.

The Ministry of Defence, British Intelligence and the Foreign Office all received regular transmissions from Mr Penfold and other officials using a channel the Foreign Office has been reluctant to admit was open to it, claiming it worked in one direction only, from Bonn to Conakry.

Democratic rule remains precarious with continued fighting between west African peacekeepers and the rebels.



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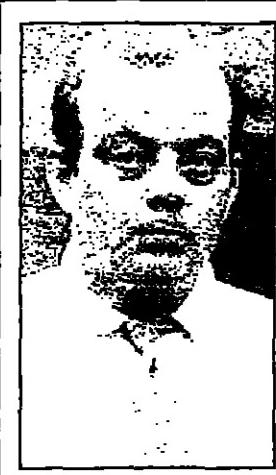
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Saint-Exupéry: death is one of great myths

## Hunt for French hero 'illegal'

By ADAM SAGE

SEARCHERS trying to solve the riddle of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's Second World War disappearance were yesterday denounced by the French author's family.

A spokesman for his heirs made public their opposition to the "illegal" hunt for the aircraft in which the writer, pilot and boy's hero crashed on July 31, 1944.

Interest in one of the greatest modern French mysteries was rekindled by the discovery last autumn near Marseilles of a bracelet said to have belonged to the author. Scientists now say it may be a fake planted by one of many people obsessed by the myth.

However, such doubts failed to stop growing numbers of bounty-hunters trying to find the P38 Lockheed Lightning in which he crashed while on a reconnaissance mission.

The Paris daily *France-Soir* reports that specialist firms in southern France have sold out of underwater electronic research equipment since news of the bracelet's discovery surfaced in the French press.

Frederic Agay, the aviation pioneer's great-nephew, said he had reminded "the highest authorities of their duty to preserve the tomb", adding that the Defence Ministry said searches for the P38 were illegal.

## Timely case puts Commission on defensive, writes Charles Bremner in Brussels

chance of a hearing to defend himself on the main charges.

The desire to get rid of Mr Connolly was evident from hostile statements made by Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, and other officials, as soon as the book was serialised in *The Times* ahead of publication in September 1995, his lawyers argue. A decision to sack Mr Connolly was taken long before the disciplinary tribunal that ordered his dismissal in January 1996, says Mr Connolly. "It was exposing a different policy view that got me the chop."

Commission lawyers will say Mr Connolly was treated no differently from any civil servant who has been public with a strong and unauthorised attack on the policies that he is employed to promote. He had known he was breaching the rules, they will say.

Mr Connolly's lawyers will

*The Rotten Heart of Europe*  
The story that震撼了欧洲  
Bernard Connolly

Connolly's book told of 'hidden agenda'

focus on the failure of the Commission's disciplinary hearing to challenge him on the contents of the book although his public condemnation of a core Commission policy was later cited as the main reason for his dismissal. The chief witness against him, Giovanni Ravasio, head of the economic and monetary directorate, told the hearing that he had not even read the book, according to court papers.

Mr Connolly does not dispute that he did not obtain permission to publish on subjects related to the job. However, he insists that he was acting as a loyal civil servant who was obeying his conscience and formal obligation to act in the interests of the EU.

He had wanted the chance to argue his case that the future single currency, since baptised the euro, was a project hostile to the interests of the Union. "There was absolutely no discussion of this supposed policy contradiction," he says.

Still fervently opposed to the euro, which was launched last month, Mr Connolly said the Commission had avoided challenging the thesis of his book because it exposed their "hidden agenda of using monetary union for the creation of a political, economic and military superstate." Nothing in the past three years had changed his opposition to the monetary project, he said. "It is about a political superstate dominated by France and Germany and this is very clearly being borne out."

For the EU's orthodox mainstream, Mr Connolly's fierce critique of monetary union is seen as marginal and somewhat eccentric. However, his legal attack on the Commission's alleged punishment of his "blasphemy" is no longer as quixotic as it appeared. Mr Santer and his Commission are now effectively on probation while a team of high-level investigators delves into its murky practices.

A ruling by the Luxembourg judges is unlikely before the summer.



Laurent Fabius, the former French Prime Minister, arriving at the specially constituted court in Paris yesterday and, below, Sylvie Rouy, 36, who was given AIDS-tainted blood after the birth of her first child in 1985

## Victims vent anger at tainted blood trial

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

VICTIMS of France's HIV-contaminated blood scandal yesterday made plain their anger and suffering on the opening day of the trial in Paris of the former Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius, and two former health ministers.

"Are you not ashamed of yourselves?" asked Agnes Cochin, 50, whose five-year-old son died after being given infected blood.

Her comments came as the unprecedented hearing was marked by controversy over the absence of key witnesses, including a Cambridge professor, M. Fabius, 52, and two of his health ministers, Georges Dufoix, 55, and Edmond Hervé, 56, accused of manslaughter for allowing the use

of the infected blood in transfusions in 1985. Each faces up to five years in jail for allegedly failing to ensure that blood products were screened and treated. Of the 4,333 people who contracted AIDS after receiving transfusions more than 1,000 have died.

Giving evidence yesterday, Mme Cochin said: "Ignoring AIDS in 1985 is like saying you didn't know about concentration camps in 1945." She added, in a voice strangled by emotion, that her son, Charles-Edouard, had caught AIDS after a transfusion during treatment for jaundice in 1985, and died in 1991.

Gilles Perard, whose father, 73, died of AIDS after being given contaminated blood in

1985, told the Ministers: "I hope you are punished. You did not do your jobs properly." Yves Aupic, who contracted AIDS after a transfusion, called the trial a "mascara" and the court "partisan".

The specially constituted Court of Justice of the Republic ordered witnesses to attend after doctors who ran the blood bank said that they would stay away. They are likely to challenge the ruling.

Giving evidence yesterday, M. Fabius said: "I am thinking about those who have suffered so much. They thought they would be cared for. They were contaminated. For years, not a single day has gone by without me thinking about them and their pain."



# Three names in Salt Lake City scan

CORRUPTION  
AND THE OLYMPICS

# Sacked Euro rebel fights for dissenters



THE RIGHT of a Eurocrat to dissent from official policy is to be tested in the European Court today when it hears a claim for wrongful dismissal of a former British official who tried to "blow the whistle" on the project for monetary union.

The case of Bernard Connolly, an EU Commission officer who was sacked for attacking the monetary project in a 1995 book, is seen by the Brussels executive as a simple breach of staff rules.

The case of Bernard Connolly, an EU Commission officer who was sacked for attacking the monetary project in a 1995 book, is seen by the Brussels executive as a simple breach of staff rules.

Mr Connolly's offence, according to the Commission, was that he published his book, *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, without permission and voiced in it views that were in "fundamental disagreement" with the policy of promoting monetary union.

However, the affair has taken on fresh weight, coming to the Court of Justice as the Brussels executive has been thrown on the defensive by the European parliament over its alleged culture of secrecy and unaccountability.

Mr Connolly, 49, sees his case as a precursor to that of Paul van Buitenen, the Dutch audit official at the Commission who has been suspended for attempting to highlight alleged corruption. Likening his case to that of Mr van Buitenen, Mr Connolly said yesterday: "The court will be testing the presumption of arrogance and unaccountability at the Commission."

Lawyers for Mr Connolly, who is now employed by an American financial concern, will argue to the Luxembourg judges that the Commission acted in breach of its own rules, the EU's Treaty of Rome and the guarantee of free speech in the European Human Rights Convention. They are claiming £170,000 in damages for libel and wrongful dismissal.

The crux of the case is that Mr Connolly, who headed the Commission's unit monitoring the exchange rate mechanism, was sacked for simply voicing dissent and had no

chance of a hearing to defend himself on the main charges.

The desire to get rid of Mr Connolly was evident from hostile statements made by Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, and other officials, as soon as the book was serialised in *The Times* ahead of publication in September 1995, his lawyers argue. A decision to sack Mr Connolly was taken long before the disciplinary tribunal that ordered his dismissal in January 1996, says Mr Connolly. "It was exposing a different policy view that got me the chop."

Commission lawyers will say Mr Connolly was treated no differently from any civil servant who has been public with a strong and unauthorised attack on the policies that he is employed to promote. He had known he was breaching the rules, they will say.

Mr Connolly's lawyers will

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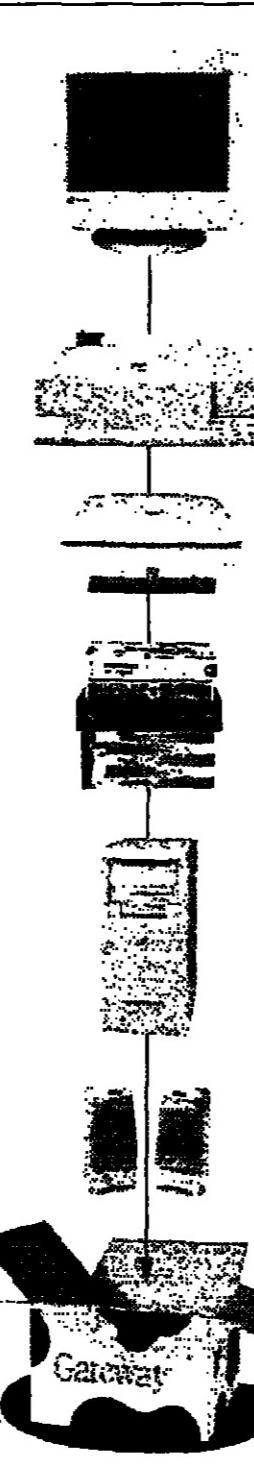
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# Three named in Salt Lake City scandal

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

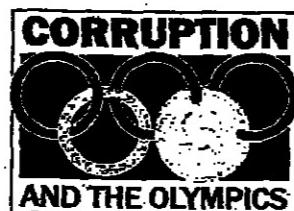
THREE top Salt Lake City Olympic officials were identified yesterday as linchpins in the corruption scandal that has clouded the future of the 2002 Winter Games and the entire Olympic movement.

The scandal could lead to prison terms for those accused of giving six-figure cash bribes and other perks in return for international Olympic Committee members' votes.

Tom Welch, Dave Johnson and Craig Peterson, all former members of the bids committee that secured the Games for the Utah capital, have been accused in a report of deceiving fellow committee members and making hidden payments to IOC members in their headlong rush for votes in 1993. The payments are thought to have totalled \$800,000 (£498,000).

The names were released yesterday with the publication of a report by the Salt Lake Organising Committee's internal ethics investigation, one of five inquiries under way into the corruption charges. It suggests that by acting behind the backs of their fellow Salt Lake "boosters", Mr Welch and Mr Johnson protected others from exposure to the corruption. But the document was swiftly criticised as flawed because all three men refused to cooperate with the investigators on their lawyers' advice.

Mr Welch and Mr Johnson have resigned from the organising committee and Mr Peterson, allegedly a key player in arranging the illicit payments, was forced off the committee in 1996. But all three may still be targets of one of the other investigations now in progress, which is by the FBI on behalf of the US Justice Department and could bring trials, fines and jail terms for anyone con-



CORRUPTION  
AND THE OLYMPICS

ber, six IOC members have been forced to resign, three have done so of their own accord, three remain under investigation and one has died.

As public attention switches back to Salt Lake City from the Olympic headquarters in Lausanne, Utah is scrambling to save the Games it fought for over a generation.

The remaining members of the organising committee are counting on Juan Antonio Samaranch, the beleaguered IOC President, to help them to raise more than \$250 million still needed to fund the Games, which more than 70 per cent of Utah voters do not want to pay for out of taxes.

The organising committee is also looking for a new leader since the resignation of its last one, Frank Joklik. The leading candidate is Mike Romney, a venture capitalist.

Should he get the job, Mr Romney will find himself in charge of a demoralised team. Despite the findings of the organising committee's internal inquiry, Mr Welch has said other committee members did know about the cash, gifts and refundable first-class air tickets given to IOC members during the bidding process.

His refusal to speak to the committee's own investigators has left former colleagues fearful that he may be holding back information with which to protect himself should the FBI select him as a target.

In addition to Mr Welch and Mr Johnson, yesterday's report named Jean-Claude Ganga of the Congo, Charles Mukora of Kenya and nearly a dozen others, who it said received unexplained payments of from \$10,000 to \$30,000. Robert Garff, the Salt Lake committee's chairman, admitted at a press conference that "many of the large disbursements lacked complete documentation".



Welch: faces charge of deceiving members



President Clinton prepares to board his helicopter for Washington yesterday as claims began to circulate about a secret voice recording system in the Oval Office

## Remains of singer may be exhumed

Nashville. The medical examiner here said that he will consider examining the body of Tammy Wynette for a post-mortem examination — almost a year after her doctor declared she died of a blood clot. The country music star, 55, was found dead at her home by her husband, George Richey. Wynette's daughters, concerned about medications she may have been taking, made the request. (Reuters)

## Stamp stubs out artist's bad habit

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

A CHAIN smoker in life, Jackson Pollock is being honoured after death by the United States Postal Service.

A new 33-cent stamp uses an artist's impression of 1949 photograph that appeared in *Life* magazine depicting the denim-clad artist crouched over a canvas puffing away.

But on the stamp, unveiled this week to commemorate the New York artist's contribution to Abstract Expressionism, the cigarette has become the latest victim of an anti-smoking drive. Don Smeraldi, a Postal

Service spokesman, tried to explain. "We are not honouring a smoker who happened to be an artist; we're honouring a very good artist who happened to be a smoker," he said.

But others are less happy. Helen Harrison of the Pollock-Krasner Study Centre said that it was a distortion. "It's unfortunate that bad-boy Jackson can't get away with it."

Professor David Lubin, an expert on "cultural symbolism", said that it was an example of the Government trying

## Monica tape claim raises Nixon spectre

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE Senate began its final deliberations in the impeachment trial last night amid extraordinary echoes of the Watergate scandal as Republican leaders said that they had been told President Clinton might have an Oval Office taping system similar to that which brought down Richard Nixon.

Trent Lott, the Senate Majority Leader, said that he had passed on the unsubstantiated information to Mr Clinton's nemesis, the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr. "All I have done is make available information sent to me," said Mr Lott.

The White House denied such a recording system existed, but the idea that Mr Clinton's conversations with Monica Lewinsky could have been captured on tape electrified Washington.

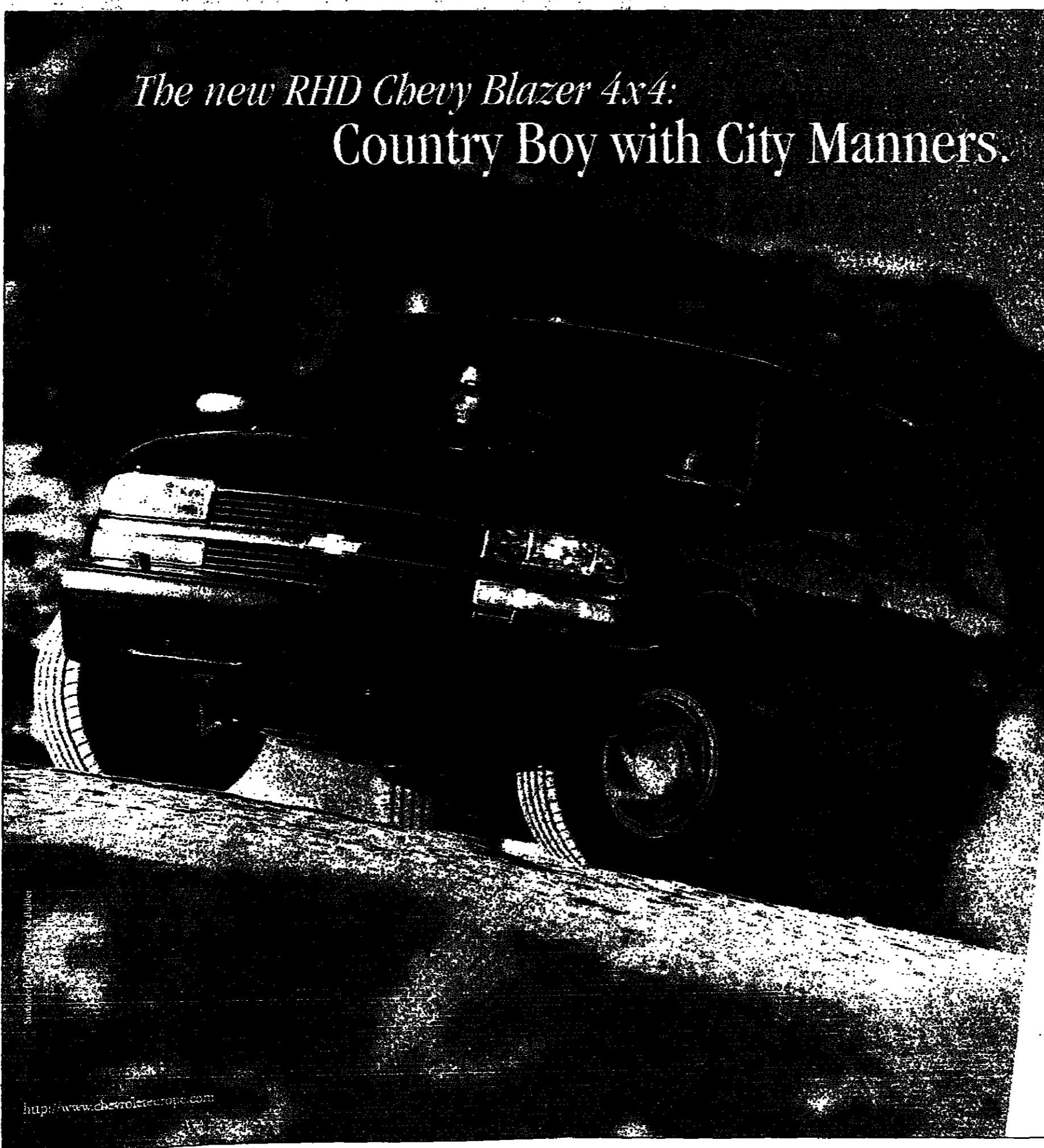
The news came as one of Mr Clinton's most faithful servants was further mired in controversy. What Sidney Blumenthal, the White House aide, said about Ms Lewinsky.

Christopher Hitchens, a British journalist, over lunch may become the focus of a new investigation amid allegations.



Pollock: known to be heavy smoker of cigarettes

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**CHEVROLET**



# In death as in life – a minimum of fuss

A quiet exit like Iris Murdoch's is the trend, says Vanora Bennett

**I**t was typical of the modest Iris Murdoch that on her death she didn't want any fuss. No grand funeral or aggrandising memorial service. A philosopher, an intellectual, an acclaimed novelist, she had no doubt considered the manner of her passing carefully and decided that she would like to go quietly.

Of course, it would amuse Dame Iris, who died on Monday, that in choosing to depart with minimal attention, she was at the vanguard of a modern movement. If death can be minimised – and what could be more so? – then the taste for dying without the traditional displays of pomp, piety and religious respect is gaining currency.

The playwright Robert Bolt, who died in 1995, was buried at the bottom of the garden of the 11th-century house he shared with his actress wife Sarah Miles. "He didn't want to be embalmed, wanted to be buried in the garden and wanted us all to drink champagne," she recalled afterwards.

Nicholas Albery, the editor of *The Natural Death Handbook*, has specified in his will that he wants to be buried on a piece of farmland that he and his wife were given as a wedding present. There will be no coffin; he wishes to be wrapped in a sheet and buried beneath a newly planted apple tree.

The Natural Death Centre has information on woodland burial sites – about 85 exist, run by farmers and local authorities, where graves costing between £300 and £800 are marked only with a tree or a simple wooden plaque – burials at sea (about 20 take place every year) and garden burials. Those prepared to meet their maker without an oak casket can choose between cardboard and paper-mache coffins, costing between £50 and £170, woven willow alternatives (£30) or woollen burial shrouds (£124).

Even some Church of England clergymen are exploring the unconventional. The diocesan syndicate of Ely, in Cambridgeshire, last year approved a plan to set up its own 40-acre woodland burial site. The Rev Peter Owen Jones, one of the scheme's supporters, says: "We want to move away from the



Iris Murdoch, who died on Monday after a long battle with Alzheimer's, and her husband John Bayley

Victorian melodrama of burial."

Few legal barriers exist; no planning permission is needed for garden burials, nor advance sanction from environmental health officers. There is no blueprint for such an informal burial; relatives make their own arrangements.

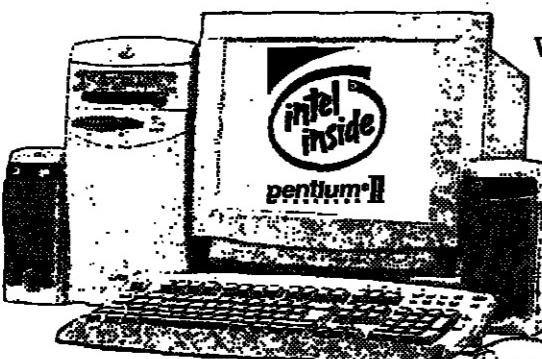
But the Centre adds, problems can arise. The Ministry of Agriculture has produced a minefield of guidelines to discourage burial at sea. A garden burial can "cause dissension if not all members of the family are in favour, or reduce

the property's value". And it is vital to remember that funerals are as much for the living as for the dead. Offering survivors the emotional comfort of a parting that they can remember without discomfort – rather than veering too far into the trendy – is a main function of a funeral.

"It should be a meaningful and fitting way to pay tribute to a life ended, so that afterwards the nearest and dearest can look back and feel they said farewell to their loved one in a sensitive and dignified way," says Dominic Maguire, the president of the National Association of Funeral Directors.

For Thomas Lynch, an undertaker and the author of a study on death, worries about form, money and display are simply displacement activities to hide from grief: "We believe we can control our feelings by laughing at undertakers – whistling past the graveyard – and paying attention to the numbers, but that's not what it's about. We have to face the fact that if you love, you grieve."

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Dolby

# I stand, she delivers

Friday: 2.30am. Staggering under the weight of two kitbags and a backpack stuffed with tiny outfits, we arrive at St Luke's-Roosevelt hospital to have a baby. We take the lift to the 12th floor, where we are ushered into a tiny "observation" cubicle with a gurney bed, sink, bin and chair. A nurse straps monitors to Joanna to measure her contractions and the foetal heartbeat, then leaves us. The contractions are coming fast and hard and Joanna is complaining of acute back pain.

"I'm going to throw up again!" she gasps. I look around for a receptionist. I help her to the sink, patting her heaving shoulders as she hugs the cold porcelain and retches violently.

"Why do you throw up in the sink?" demands the nurse crossly from the doorway.

"The bin," she says with a scowl.

We are not here to argue about where to vomit.

Joanna has jettisoned all thoughts of using the birthing centre and having a "natural" drug-free labour. She pleads for an epidural as we wait for our obstetrician to drive in from the suburbs. She looks away at the grumpy nurse stretches a tourniquet around her arm and inserts an IV needle into a bulging vein. The needle pops out. The nurse tries again. And again. Each time the needle slips out, leaving a crimson blotch of blood on the white linen.

"Your veins – no good," the nurse complains and wanders off. She returns with a green-smocked Russian, whom I overhear scolding her for using the wrong needles. He manages first time.

Friday: 3am. In the delivery room. An elegant Chinese anaesthetist inserts a catheter into Joanna's spine and feeds in liquid numbness. Joanna almost weeps with gratitude as the pain seeps away. She is suffering from "back labour", with the baby's head in a posterior position. The doctor decides to go in with an instrument like a flattened crochet hook "to break the waters". Luckily, Joanna cannot see it.

Now she is rigged up to a web of technological tendril wires to the monitors and tubes to a drip that dispenses a labour-inducing drug and saline to keep her blood pressure up. One by one we are conceding to all the things we were urged to resist in birthing class, all the gadgetry and potions of a "medicated" birth.

Friday: 1.30pm. Joanna has been pushing for two hours while I count each push, feeding her crushed ice in between, muttering reassurances. But I get things slightly wrong. I grip her hand too hard. My lower-back massage eludes the hot spot. I am devoid of the power to assess. I am a man in the delivery room. I revert to the hunter-gatherer default and go off foraging for sustenance. When I return, bearing Starbucks coffee, I find there has been progress.

"You're so close," says the doctor. "Can you see the baby's head?" she asks me. And there is the top of our baby's head, covered in a fuzz of oily blond hair.

"It's time for an internal baby heart monitor," she adds. From her quiver of medieval torture tools she produces an instrument shaped like a long knitting

needle; she intends to screw its small metal tip into the baby's head. We meekly agree. Her first attempt fails, however; puzzled, she withdraws the applicator tube. "They've redesigned it," she complains mildly, spreading out the instructions on the foot of the bed.

"Pull tab (a), twist (b) and remove," reads Deborah, the labour nurse. "The tab goes back in after you've turned, like this." I offer, as we huddle around the applicator as though assembling Ikea furniture. Joanna groans at the onset of another contraction: I remember that we are screwing a cranial spike into a baby.

3.15pm. Joanna's strength is waning. Between contractions she uses an oxygen mask. I look out of the window. Outside it is a busy New York Friday afternoon. Below is a dotted line of yellow cabs, slow-moving termites jostling for position. On the Hudson I can see the grey hull of the *USS Intrepid*, the aircraft carrier, berthed there. The panorama unfolds across the river to the New Jersey shore, and south through a thicket of mid-town high rises to the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. Helicopters throng across at window height on their way to the Chelsea heliport – the world into which we are trying to entice this baby to make its reluctant debut.

I turn back. The atmosphere has changed. I follow the doctor's anxious eyes to the blinking monitors and the graphics they spew. The baby's heart rate is beginning to falter between contractions. With a magician's flourish, the doctor whips the green cloth off the trolley at her side to reveal an array of suctioning equipment. Deborah pushes a red button on the wall; suddenly the room is full of people in smocks and shower caps.

The doctor has the vacuum cap leashed on to the sandy dome of the baby's head and on the next contraction she really heaves like an old-fashioned dentist pulling at a deep-rooted molar. But, unbelievably, the head remains lodged. All eyes swirl back to the monitors, where the vital signs blink wildly like Wall Street stock prices on a volatile trading day. "Episiotomy," she says. It is a bald statement of fact, not a subject for discussion. She snatches up a pair of scissors. The blades scintillate in the beam of the lowered spotlight. I look away. But above the beeping of the monitors and the roar of the air-conditioning, I hear two loud snips. I look back to see the doctor tossing the scissors on to the tray, and at the next contraction she takes up her grip on the handle of the vacuum, assuming a tug-of-war stance with her shoulders.

I am appalled by the violence being directed towards this unborn baby, terrified that its little neck will simply snap with the force of it all. I am about to plead for a "C" section myself when suddenly the doctor staggers back and the baby shoots out – head, arms, torso, legs – like a long, bloody link of sausages, and immediately the room is filled with the instantly recognisable cry of the newborn.

"It's a boy," says the doctor and lifts the baby, still tethered like a tiny moonwalker by his umbilical cord.

PETER GODWIN



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# The next big bang: explosive the size of salt grains

The creation of N<sub>5</sub>, an atomic freak of nature, has stunned the world of chemistry. Nicholas Booth reports

There are two sorts of explosion in chemistry — predictable ones and those that are entirely unexpected. To hear Karl Christie describe the events of one day last November, the explosion that destroyed part of his apparatus came as no surprise. "We knew what we were looking for," he says with a studied nonchalance. "We knew it would be very unstable and spectacular."

The "it" in question has the normally staid world of inorganic chemistry agog. For Dr Christie's research team, working for the US Air Force, has formed an atomic freak of nature and one of the most vibrantly explosive substances ever created.

Known as "Nitrogen 5" (N<sub>5</sub>), many chemists doubted this form of polynitrogen could ever exist, let alone be created in a laboratory. And yet when it was synthesised in the form of a few grains of salt, the effects were quite spectacular.

"I was quite relieved when it blew up," Dr Christie says. "If you expect something to be that energetic, you're going to have to deliver." Although he is at pains to point out that his work is purely fundamental research, it does promise hitherto unexpected advances in rocket propellants and explosives.

Dr Christie was the leader of a team of 15 chemists, who created this man-made form of nitrogen.



Normally regarded as one of the more staid and boring of elements, nitrogen is the invisible gas that forms four fifths of our atmosphere. Gaseous nitrogen comprises two atoms joined together as N<sub>2</sub>, which is stable and unreactive. It was first isolated in 1772 by among others, the British scientist Henry Cavendish. Yet its stability makes it useful as a potential explosive: when some of its electrons are stripped, the positively charged fragments (ions) will go to any lengths, even violent ones, to regain stability.

A second form of nitrogen was found in the 1890s in the form of azides or N<sub>3</sub>, which temporarily binds three nitrogen atoms together.

Azides are so unstable that they usually have to be kept in a crystalline form.

The lattice structure imprisons each azide so that it cannot come into contact with its neighbour — an explosion results if contact occurs.

A common form is the sodium azide that is found inside the airbags of cars. It is used to generate nitrogen rapidly. When a car undergoes a severe impact, the nitrogen ions come into contact and release the gas remarkably quickly.

The third form created by Dr Christie is more unstable still. N<sub>5</sub> consists of five nitrogen atoms bonded in a V-shape. Essentially, his team have pulled a rabbit out of a hat: binding more than three



We have lift off: the newly-created substance N<sub>5</sub>, part an initiative by the US Air Force to look into highly energetic materials, could be used for more efficient rocket fuel

nitrogen atoms together was believed to be impossible. When Dr Christie presented his findings to the American Chemical Society last month, the audience were stunned and not because of the explosion.

Dr Christie's work is part of an initiative by the US Air Force to look into highly energetic materials, which could be used for making more efficient rocket fuel. His work is carried out at the Edwards Air Force Base, a vast dry lake in California's Mojave Desert, most familiar as the landing site for the space shuttle and famous as the home of the "right stuff" test pilots.

Although spectacular, all rocket launches are frustrating to their designers. Even the most powerful propellants have a performance ceiling that limits their efficiency.

For every ton of equipment hoisted aloft — be it scientific equipment

into orbit or a warhead beyond energy lines — five tons of fuel are needed. This ratio is immutable with conventional rocket chemistry and Dr Christie's team in the Edwards Propulsion Directorate may have found a way around it.

It took four months to synthesise a stable form of the molecular fragment by combining gaseous nitrogen with a negatively charged mixture of arsenic and fluorine.

The result was a few grains of a solid compound that, says Dr Christie, looks like table salt. "Except that if you put it in a salt cellar you'd soon know about it," he adds.

Its explosiveness comes from the way in which the positively charged molecular fragment latches on to its nearby brethren.

Natural forms of nitrogen have attained the chemical equivalent of Zen, the lowest energy state, where it remains unreactive and stable.

What Dr Christie has done is to

break a barrier in energy terms. He uses the analogy of a river: "Water doesn't run uphill," he says. "You can make it go up a hill, but you have to put some energy in. Chemically speaking, we have kicked this form of nitrogen up the hill."

Yet actually to create new molecular fragments is more an art than an exact science. The results still lie with "intuition and instinct," for others have failed to create any new forms of nitrogen. Dr Christie has scored some notable successes. In 1986 he succeeded in separating pure fluorine from a compound by chemical means rather than using vast amounts of energy. "I've had a pretty good batting average," Dr Christie adds.

Another surprise is that they have been able to create N<sub>5</sub> on a microscopic scale and not just as a handful of molecules. In November they produced about 100 milligrams, but now they could create

the innumerable permutations of chemical combinations can be predicted on screen. "We can predict whether the material is stable and if it exists, minimise the processes needed to create it," he says.

half a gram. Because of its instability, they have to keep it cold and pack it within dry ice at a temperature of -80°C. Even so, they are taking no chances: the ampoules, which contain the new form of nitrogen, are made of Teflon.

In the annals of inorganic chemistry, Dr Christie has produced a wonder stuff that some believe may be too unstable to use. But if it could be kept stable and manufactured it would be an ideal fuel for the upper stages of rockets and missiles.

He refuses to be drawn, merely saying he has no idea what it might lead to. "Scientifically, it is very spectacular," he says. "But if you want sure bets, go to Las Vegas. I can't predict what will come out of this work."

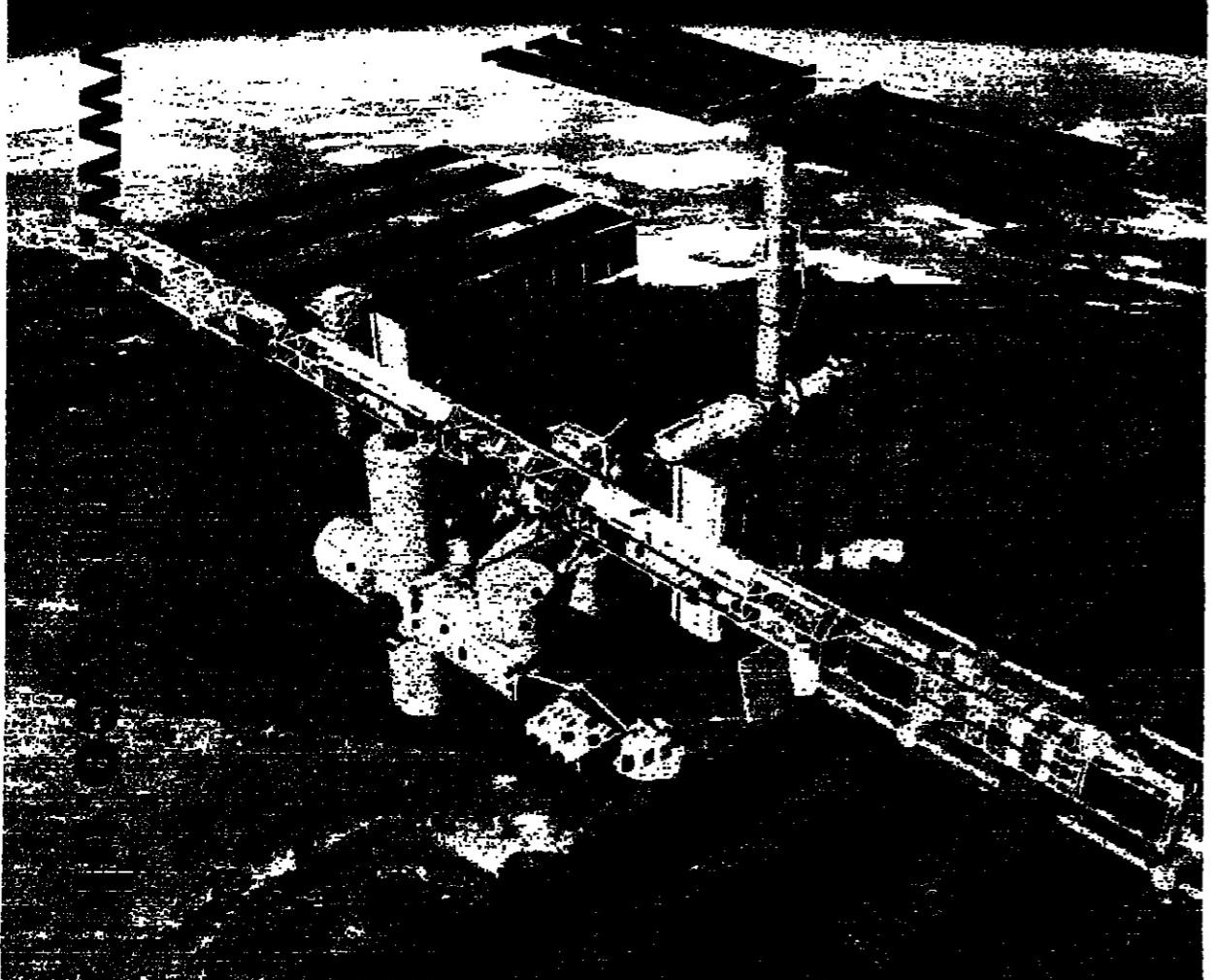
You don't have to be a rocket scientist to realise that the field of polynitrogen chemistry may surprise us yet.

THE TIMES

# news first

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□ Heart disease □ Solar breakthrough □ Pecking order

## A bug in the heart

THE evidence linking heart disease to a common bug is growing. The idea is appealing because it would help to clarify the causes of a disease too often blamed on its victims' behaviour.

No doubt diet, smoking, obesity, genetic predisposition and lack of exercise have an influence, but they do not explain the third or so of victims who have no such risk factors.

The latest piece of evidence, published in last week's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, drew on just such a group: 3315 British patients who had had a heart attack, despite having no known risk factors. NHS medical records enabled any drugs they had been prescribed to be compared with those given to a control group of 13,139 patients who were matched in other respects but had not suffered a heart attack.

One difference emerged, according to Dr Herschel Jick of Boston University. Those who had heart attacks were much less likely to have been treated within the previous three years with two types of antibiotics — tetracyclines or quinolones. Other antibiotics — penicillins, macrolides, sulphonamides and cephalosporins — showed no such effect.

The striking thing is that this points to *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, a bacterium that has already been fingered in the search for an infectious cause of heart disease. The bug attacks the lungs and can cause pneumonia, although most people who carry it suffer no apparent effects. *Chlamydia* is sensitive to tetracyclines and quinolones, less so to other antibiotics. So the suggestion is that taking these antibiotics for other reasons can kill off the *Chlamydia* in-

fection and protect against heart disease. The findings are consistent with results published 18 months ago by Dr Sandeep Gupta, of St George's Hospital Medical School in London. He found that in heart attack survivors, the chances of having another attack depended on the number of *Chlamydia* antibodies found in their systems. Those with the highest levels — indicating infection with the bug — had four times the chance of repeat heart attacks than those with the lowest. If they had been given antibiotics, however, the risk went down.

So how much more evidence is needed before heart attack survivors, at least, are routinely given a course of antibiotics? Doctors who have spent the past 20 years urging heart patients to heal themselves seem surprisingly reluctant to take back the responsibility. There are sound reasons for this: the evidence falls some way short of proof, and the routine consumption of antibiotics by millions of people risks the development of drug resistance. The American Heart Association responded to the study by saying it is "much too early to consider prescribing antibiotics to people at risk for heart attack." But individuals may well disagree.

A new trial to be launched next month in the United States could help. The plan is to recruit 4,000 people at 28 medical centres, assign them at random to one antibiotic or placebo tablet a week, then follow them for heart symptoms for three years. Dr Ward Kennedy, of the University of Washington in Seattle, believes that the chance of antibiotic-resistant bacteria emerging is small. "We think it's worth the risk," he says, "because the question is so important."

## Power of the pecking order

SOME behaviour, such as yawning, seems to be catching. Once one person starts, everybody else joins in. Two ecologists from Rutgers University in New York have found that this also applies to the common tern. Among colonies of the birds in a salt marsh in Manahawkin Bay in New Jersey, the amount of preening that goes on depends on the number of birds present. When more than two or three

are gathered together, preening increases, report Brian Palessis and Joanna Burger in *Animal Behaviour*. One bird starts and the rest follow, like teenage girls perfecting their lipstick at a disco.

On one occasion, five terns were sitting quietly until one started preening. Within two minutes, four of them were at it, and the odd one out was the only bird looking in the other direction. The date, time of day or the weather could not explain this pattern.

Preening serves various purposes, including ridding the birds of parasites. But explaining why it should be socially triggered is tricky.

Perhaps, the two ecologists wonder, it is because living in colonies increases the rate of infestation by parasites, so

that increased preening among social birds is needed to control them. But it could also have something to do with the pecking order, subordinate birds taking their cue from those at the top.

SOLAR cells are an attractive source of electricity, but low efficiency is still a drawback. At best, the cells can convert to electricity only about a quarter of the sunlight falling on them.

Now an accidental discovery by Harvard University physicists could help to improve that.

Tsing-Hua Her, Eric Mazur and Claudia Wu were trying to find new ways of etching circuit patterns on silicon, using a laser and various gases inside a chamber. They found instead that their process turned the surface of the silicon into a forest of perfect spikes, standing up from the surface of the chip.

This was useless for electronic chips, but ideal for solar cells, which are also made of silicon. Light falling on the spikes was reflected to and fro in a random fashion, and much more was absorbed. Solar cells made from the spiky silicon generate about 60 per cent more electricity than flat ones; at least for certain wavelengths of light. Discover reports.

How the spikes form remains a bit of a mystery, but the team suspects that there is a chemical reaction between the layers of silicon heated by the laser and chlorine or fluorine gas.

At present the process is slow and expensive, but better methods of production are being sought.

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# Counting the cost of Monica

The Lewinsky affair leaves victims tarnished but honours even

**W**ith just two days to go — maybe only a day — until the formal end of the impeachment trial of President Clinton, we can already see the shape of the landscape scoured out by the year-long deluge of the Lewinsky saga.

An astounding year in American politics has left as many losers as winners. Most of all, there are scores of plain victims, with privacy and family finances now shattered. At the head of the ragged tribe of winners is Mr Clinton himself. Even if the Senate censures him, and even if the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr then indicts him, we might as well say that Mr Clinton has emerged victorious. The drama produced three climactic moments when it seemed that he had only days left: when the story first broke in January last year; when he admitted an "inappropriate relationship" with Monica Lewinsky on videotape on August 17; and in the run-up to the November 3 elections, when congressional Democrats appeared to be fleeing the sinking ship. He survived all three.

So has his wife. In fact, she has prospered. For now, her closest colleagues content themselves with murmuring "she'll wait for the world to come to her" after leaving the White House. But as that date approaches, she may well feel that a bid for a New York Senate seat is the most attractive step towards a new future.

Monica herself will probably be all right, we can hope, after this week's videotapes of her testimony. Poised and low-voiced, four years and a world away from the panicking Beverly Hills girl on the Linda Tripp tapes, she chided House Republicans for fishing for "salacious" details. "I wish you wouldn't use that word — you're talking about my relationship," she said, even at this late stage in the saga adding to its list of deathless quotes. Her own voice does her enough credit to suggest that Andrew Morton's soon-to-be released account of her life should not be an embarrassment. Even for Monica, it seems, there may be life after Lewinsky.

On the principle that in politics, any publicity is good publicity, a dozen previously invisible characters perhaps should also be called winners. In the common imagination, Kenneth Starr will be preserved for ever, smiling glassily as he puts out his dustbins, or resting his flask of coffee on his car roof while he hangs up his jacket in the back seat. The white-haired, black-suited bulk of Henry Hyde will for ever be snooped over the Senate lectern, gripping it as if carrying tablets of stone.

Democrats in Congress are also winners. The question is whether they can seize the true prize and regain the House of Representatives in the year 2000 elections. That dream, which still seemed elusive after the mid-term elections, has seemed achievable since Mr Clinton's State of the Union speech last month. Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, is



Bronwen Maddox

surely right to calculate that he stands a better chance of becoming Speaker at the head of a new Democratic majority than he does of becoming President.

But as far as winners go, that's about it. Mr Starr's zeal, repellent to many, has almost certainly done for the Office of the Independent Counsel. It is unlikely to be recreated in its present form after it expires in June. There is widespread agreement, as Justice Antonin Scalia famously argued at the office's creation in 1988, that it is "unaccountable and unconstitutional".

The presidency itself has also been undermined. Never mind about the sanctimonious pronouncements that the aura of the Oval Office has been tarnished. More important is the precedent of bringing civil actions against a President while still in office. The Supreme Court's original judgment that Paula Jones's sexual harassment case would not disrupt Mr Clinton's presidency is now indisputably wrong: the potential for future Administrations to be seriously harassed by politically inspired legal cases remains.

The saga may also have hurt Vice-President Al Gore's chances of reaching the White House. True, the main impediment to Mr Gore's hopes remains himself. His stiffness, despite all the resources available to him, is one of those mysteries of public life. But the Lewinsky affair has made his task more difficult.

As long as the President was struggling for survival, it was hard for Mr Gore to distance himself. At a time when he should be grabbing the stage from Mr Clinton, and making speeches on the economy, on Russia and Jordan, Mr Gore has allowed his boss to continue to hog the limelight. There is a growing Washington murmur that the scandal may also have deterred savvy operators from joining the Gore camp: the lack of enough first-rate, experienced people on the prospective campaign team is conspicuous, and a luxury he cannot afford much longer.

Most sympathy should go to the scores of people dragged into the investigation. Poised and low-voiced, four years and a world away from the panicking Beverly Hills girl on the Linda Tripp tapes, she chided House Republicans for fishing for "salacious" details. "I wish you wouldn't use that word — you're talking about my relationship," she said, even at this late stage in the saga adding to its list of deathless quotes. Her own voice does her enough credit to suggest that Andrew Morton's soon-to-be released account of her life should not be an embarrassment. Even for Monica, it seems, there may be life after Lewinsky.

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## Fire, film — and forget

**W**ho would be a New Labour diplomat? You have a Prime Minister desperate to outdazzle Gordon Brown. You are told to bear any burden, crash any summit, book any jet, bomb any foe, in the cause of new Labour. You have to take orders from Alastair Campbell and Jonathan Powell. To cap it all you have to "lie abroad for your country" — ethically.

In the circumstances, I would probably do what Peter Penfold did. I would find a minor dictator with a name like Johnny Koroma, call in Our Boys and topple him in the name of democracy. I would stage a triumphal parade in the capital, with tribal women crying hallelujah to the great white elephant of Downing Street. I would declare Tony Blair the prince of freedom. Then I would get the hell out, before the whole thing went pear-shaped.

The Sierra Leone operation went just fine. A victory was won. Mr Blair was declared a saint. The spin-doctors were jubilant and Our (former) Boys and the cameramen left town. The country was promptly immersed in a bloodbath, with bandits cutting off arms, legs, ears, lips and genitalia. But we were out. In other words, the operation was par for the new liberal interventionism. It was a brilliant example of the laser-guided surgical diplomacy that Robin Cook has long boasted would supplant the "new world disorder" of the Tories: "fire, film and forget" diplomacy.

Most of this is of concern to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. Its report is chiefly worried that somewhere within the glorious edifice of the Foreign Office, wires were crossed. Messages had been sent by post not telephone. Calls had been missed. Even worse, ministers had been badly briefed. An offence had been committed against the golden British art of administration.

The committee chairman, Donald Anderson, repeated the cliché about the Foreign Office Rolls-Royce looking more like an old banger. Somehow we had not played cricket in Sierra Leone. Chaps had not behaved like chaps. As punishment, heaven help us, management consultants should be summoned. Meanwhile, back in Sierra Leone the holocaust continued.

History is awash in messages for want of which an empire is lost. Nobody should deride process and

accountability. The woes detailed in the report are indeed woes, though hardly more woeful than revealed in last year's Legg report into the same affair. But no empire fell over Mr Penfold's missed message. As the report says, United Nations arms sanctions are a shambles. Mr Penfold's collusion with the mercenaries was naive, but given the outcome he might have expected the spin-doctors to handle it. When Nelson said at Copenhagen "I really do not see the signal", all England cheered.

Those who recall Mr Cook's juvenile hysteria on the pavement outside the Scott inquiry must smile at his discomfiture yesterday. How he used to deride the Foreign Office defence behind which he now takes refuge. His attack on the report for using "the colourful language of political knockabout" is rich. Even richer was Downing Street's contribution.

How dare the press write about Sierra Leone, said Mr Campbell or one of his stooges, when today it had been told to write about the Government's education successes? What an interesting response.

This hypocrisy is beside the point. Downing Street says the report is unfair and disproportionate. It is certainly disproportionate. As with the Scott report, here is another case of an inquiry addressing itself to a lesser crime, as if to let government off some greater one. Like Scott, the report is high on hindsight. Its hindsight is so particular, so magnifying of one detail, as to distort the whole. It is all trees and no wood.

The proper question for a select committee is, what on earth were we doing meddling in Sierra Leone? How much of the blood now being shed in that miserable country is on Britain's hands? If there was a good reason for doing what we did, what

action was left to the private sector.

If Britain now intends to plunge into civil wars across the globe we shall need mercenaries, or we shall run out of soldiers. Like a Renaissance prince, Mr Blair appears to want his flag fluttering over every battlefield. *Sandline International* and its ilk will have to be his condottieri.

When arms-for-Africa broke into a "scandal" last year, we hoped it might diminish the Government's enthusiasm for such casual incursions into other people's civil wars. Cool Britannia might stay at home awhile and cultivate its garden. Perhaps other parts of the world might be left to sort out their troubles, and we might concentrate on ours. But no. Mr Blair and Mr Cook are now serial meddlers. They cannot resist trying to control. It is as if every foreign state were about to vote Ken Livingstone as mayor. The latest issue of the Blairite

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Simon Jenkins

No foreign field is so far that the control freaks of new Labour would not have their flag fluttering over it

journal *Renewal* analyses the Government's Third Way foreign policy in the most interventionist terms. Edmund Cairns (though it could be Mr Cook) writes as follows: "Britain cannot have an effective security policy without a holistic approach which fights global exclusion... complemented by a defence strategy that is capable and willing to protect civilians in the midst of conflicts." Mr Cairns does not say which civilians or what sort of conflicts. This is naked imperialism.

In pursuit of this garbled objective, Mr Cook now has economic sanctions of varying degrees of severity against half the world's poorest nations. He has bombing threats outstanding against Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. He is "actively involved" in the future of Palestine. He has sent a minister to parley with the Taliban militia in Afghanistan. Since he has presumably squeezed Sierra Leone, will he now be tantalising him?

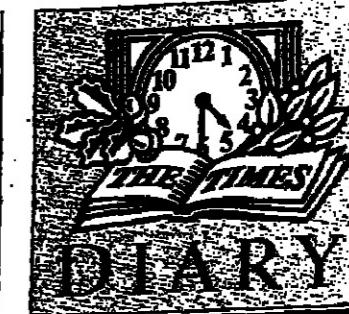
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**M**r Cook and his French opposite number are present have the paradox to the internal conflict in Yugoslavia locked up in a chateau in Rambouillet. He has told the Kosovar dissidents to lay down their weapons and accept partial autonomy. He is telling the Belgrade Government to grant that autonomy and get its troops out. If it refuses, he will bomb them, or some of them, somewhere, somehow, sometime. He will also send in British troops to keep them all in order. All this because murders were committed by paramilitary gangs operating entirely within the borders of a sovereign state. "Third Ways" are apparently above law — and above the heads of parliamentary select committees.

Occasionally we should dare to see ourselves as others do. There is another European state much closer to home, also with a control-obsessed Government that cannot get regional separatists to disarm in return for partial autonomy. That Government has been reduced to setting murderers free and thus risks provoking the revival of a 25-year-old civil war. That Government is at its wits' end. Perhaps some kind foreigner should summon it to a French chateau and tell it what to do. Perhaps it might even offer to drop bombs if its advice is rejected.

How would we feel then?

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## Smart move

PETER MANDELSON may not have to depart his beloved Notting Hill as swiftly as I predicted. Quietly, Mandy has helped to raise £500,000 for roofless sorts to stay in a hostel in the trendy cardboard box-less London enclave. The dash, enough to pay back Geoffrey Robinson, will buy a refuge.

The repentant soul added weight to the campaign along with chums Elle Macpherson (below left) and Ruby Wax (right) as well as Lady Powell and Ruth Rendell. Among the spartan centre's attractions are the trained staff who will "give advice on housing and job openings". Save a bed for Peter.

● MEANWHILE, Peter's bedtime arrangements are coming under scrutiny again. And we might now learn why Jeremy Paxman felt so guilty after Mandelson was "outed" on Newsnight that he dropped round a letter of apology. Punch says that Donald Macintyre, Mandelson's approved biographer, will report that Paxman enjoyed dinner with Mandelson's close friend Reinaldo Alva da Silva. The jolly affair is said to have taken place at Robert Harris's county home. So



will this be one of Macintyre's disclosures? "I've made it a rule not to talk about the book," he says.

## Written off

BEFORE she died, Iris Murdoch destroyed five of her novels that she deemed unfit for publication.

The early works were beginning to interest publishers, so Dame Iris ripped them up 30 years after writing them. They showed a strong intellectual grip. Peter Conrad, writing her biography, tells me: "But she thought them juvenile. She was a good judge. From the remains I read, she was right."

After destroying one book and tossing it in the bin, Murdoch peered down and remarked that for the first time it looked quite good. Later she rallied, and watched with relief as it was taken by dustmen.

● HANDBAG wars at the Tory Winter Ball, where Sir Rocco Forte and Wafic Said indulged in a spot of competitive tendering for a signed handbag of Baroness Thatcher. The hotelier pulled out of the auction just before his fellow swank bid £12,500. Wafic has a lot more firepower than me," Sir Rocco tells me. "It would have been fun but I am a lot better off now."

## Smoked out

AN ATTEMPT to exploit the good name of Lord Charles Spencer-Churchill in aid of a planned cigar



bar in Mayfair has backfired. While applying for a licence, the developers suggested that the Duke of Marlborough's brother had lent his support. But Lord Charles let the planning people know that he was not involved. The council then refused to give permission.

● TOILERS at Cartier have found the answer to Rolo-robbins: wrapping watches in Harrods bags. I hear: "They look like cheap knick-knacks bought by the provincial coach party brigade."

## Good heavens

A ROCKET for the Roman Catholic Church from Sir Elton John. The theological thinker and his chum David Furnish are to make a movie of a book the church labelled "shocking and deplorable". In God's Name alleges Pope John Paul II was murdered by the Mafia. Furnish insists that the couple's interest is purely artistic: "It has a case well argued." An argument unlikely to impress John Paul II.

JASPER GERARD

I may never again raise my fedora as I pass Buck House, nor, at some formal dinner-table, wait respectfully until the loyal toast before lighting up

**A**ny about the serious effect smoking might henceforth have on me: for what really aches my heart and numbs my sense, you will probably nod smugly, knowing my little ways. and say, yes, there we go, he has been overdoing on nicotine again, he has been up half the night smoking. he has only himself to blame, he will get no sympathy from us, it is a filthy habit, look at his fingers, sniff his hair, check his ceiling, clock his clothes.

But while you would be unarguably right on all counts, you would still not have got anywhere near the nub of this particular, acting numbness, since it is both different from the numinous norm, and immeasurably worse: for while I have indeed been up half the night smoking, that is because I have been up half the night worrying about smoking. More particular-

ly, about the royal warrant from cigarette manufacturers, the Queen — no, make that the queen; if I have not yet given up, at least let me cut down — has turned her back on me.

And what makes that rejection more bitter yet is that it was none other than she who had always sustained me against the manifold rejections of all the rest: what did I care if theatres and cinemas barred their doors against me, or cabbies threw me out, or doctors struck me off, or public transport belittled its name or chic restaurants directed me to the mucky chip-shops opposite, or airlines reduced my transglobal dreams to short-hop nightmares, or even dear friends said would you

withdraw the royal warrant from cigarette manufacturers, the Queen — no, make that the queen; if I have not yet given up, at least let me cut down — has turned her back on me.

mind awfully... what did any of this matter when, back on the lonely pavement, I could slip from my coat-pocket a pack of Silk Cut whose titchy golden escutcheon would catch the moonlight, lion and unicorn rampant to assure me that what I was about to ignite had been personally appointed by my sovereign lady? Not smoke? Dear God, it seemed an act of treason to abstain!

More yet, my gratitude for this approval led me to honour all the rest of her endorsements. While other anxious shoppers trotted the supermarket aisles, squinting at e-numbers, additives, substitutes, sell-by dates, fat contents, mineral deposits, national provenances, political ratiocines, and short-hop nightmares, or even dear friends said would you

and threats, I have never sought any signal but one. Enter my larder and you will find only her gracious marmalade, her regal fish-paste, her sovereign cereal her radiant sauce.

What is my scullery but a little shrine to her palate? A place of not just devotion but, yes, communion: off in the silly night, when I have tipped down for a cold beef sandwich and a glass of stout, a devoted tear has pricked my eye at the thought that, just a few miles up the road, she herself might, at that very moment, be spreading the self-same mustard on the self-same bread, and raising the self-same nectar to her lip.

But that's all over, now. Even as I write, the Master of the Queen's Fagges, ordained to sample the market in her service, is grimly stuffing his bits and

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## FALSE ASYLUM

The current system is neither firm nor fair

Britain's tolerance of asylum-seekers has, in recent years, been heavily strained by foreigners making bogus applications and abusing the system. Reports of such incidents, sometimes exaggerated, have overshadowed the plight of genuine refugees. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, yesterday published the Asylum and Immigration Bill, which he hopes will make the application system "firm, fast and fair" for all. He deserves credit for confronting a treacherous issue before it becomes dangerously divisive.

Mr Straw should ignore criticism that his plans are too tough. Some of the proposals lack detail, and one — forming reception zones for migrants — is ill-advised. Yet, taken as a whole, they show that Mr Straw is addressing many of the failings of the current antiquated system, which is woefully unable to cope with the rising number of asylum-seekers.

The Home Secretary has correctly diagnosed the existing process as a bureaucratic "mess", open to exploitation. Over the past decade, the trickle of people seeking asylum in Britain has swelled into a flood. There were 4,000 applicants in 1988, and 46,000 last year. The ability to appeal, time and again, if an application is refused, means that refugees can wait years before they know their fate. More than 75,000 applicants are currently in the queue. Processing delays cost taxpayers £500 million a year, and give people who would not warrant asylum too much time to vanish or enter a fake marriage. At the end of this sorry, expensive story, seven out of ten applicants are turned away.

The Home Secretary's Bill will accelerate and tighten the process. He has set ambitious targets to deal with applications within two months, and hear any appeal within the next four months. If that appeal is turned down, the applicant will be deported. Such a change is not "unfair", as some refugee organisations suggest, but long overdue. So too is the new regulatory

body to put out of business unscrupulous "immigration advisers" who exploit migrants' ignorance of the application process. Mr Straw is also wisely trying to prevent migrants using wedlock as a legal loophole, by giving registrars new powers to scrutinise suspected "sham" marriages.

Other plans, although well-intended, are less well conceived. The Home Secretary intends to strip asylum-seekers of their right to social security cash benefits, and give them vouchers or support in kind "at a level to ensure their subsistence". The all-important fine print, detailing how this system will work, has yet to emerge. Mr Straw will need to tread carefully in this treacherous terrain. The previous Government received a stinging rebuke in the Court of Appeal when it deprived some refugees of social security benefits.

The most ill-considered proposal aims to iron out an existing anomaly, whereby some local authorities (especially those which administer ports or airports in the South East) must house asylum-seekers. Most council taxpayers in those areas will support Mr Straw's proposal to deny migrants a choice of accommodation. Yet giving the Home Secretary the power to force local authorities to house them in unoccupied homes (termed "reception zones") is a policy riddled with risk. Unless councils are adequately compensated for the costs of housing and caring for asylum-seekers, this approach could inflame tensions between migrants and local communities. If Mr Straw is really intent on keeping track of bogus asylum-seekers, he should consider the practice adopted in many European countries, where migrants are kept in special hostels until their application has been processed.

The public's willingness to support asylum-seekers depends on the application system being firm but fair. At present, it is neither. Mr Straw has made a commendable start at reform. But the devil is there to trap him in the detail.

## PASS THE PARCEL

A game from Sierra Leone for MPs of all parties

The report produced by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee yesterday employs unprecedented language in its assault on the competence of senior civil servants and on the Foreign Secretary's efforts to "obstruct" its work. Robin Cook retorted that the MPs had not produced a single fact that had not appeared in the Legg report last summer. The Prime Minister then dismissed their findings as "wholly disproportionate".

The evidence analysed in this report is certainly similar to that published by Sir Thomas Legg. Some of criticism of the FCO Permanent Secretary, Sir John Kerr — namely that he "failed in his duties to ministers" — might reasonably be considered excessive. That does not mean that the committee uncovered nothing of merit, or that its conclusions are unwarranted.

It is hardly surprising that in strictly factual terms the committee discovered little that differed from Sir Thomas's narrative. They were, belatedly, dealing with exactly the same material and the Foreign Secretary refused to allow them access to those officials in the intelligence community who might have enlightened them further. The story of utter confusion about the meaning of a United Nations resolution that Britain had apparently helped to draft, and the internal communications failures within Whitehall and between London and Peter Penfold, the High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, is still shocking. The oral evidence acquired by the committee does add some useful detail to this sorry saga.

The purpose of any select committee document is, crucially, different from that of an official, especially internal, inquiry. Sir Thomas rightly confined himself to the procedural aspects of events — who did

what and when — and steered clear of any comment on matters that might be considered within the realm of political management. It was this aspect that, equally correctly, the select committee felt fell within its remit. In order to carry out that task, the MPs required timely access to relevant documents and individuals. They often found their path blocked by a Foreign Secretary who was determined that the Legg report would be the last word on the shambles. This was, as Donald Anderson, the Labour MP who chairs the committee, complained yesterday, an entirely imprudent fashion in which to conduct business.

The arrogance of the department during the investigation itself has now been trumped by the shameless efforts of the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary to discredit the select committee report after publication. There is no aspect of this episode that reflects well upon the Foreign Office. Tony Blair should not have determined to deploy his personal authority to defend the indefensible.

This sudden ministerial zeal to defend the honour of their mandarins will amuse many in the Foreign Office. They will recall Mr Cook's haste to disown his officials when that controversy first became public. The doctrine of ministerial responsibility may sometimes have been exaggerated but, in moderated form, it is an essential part of the constitution. Officials could be forgiven for assuming that the doctrine has been redefined to mean that ministers take full responsibility for successful policies while civil servants assume responsibility for all failures. It must be hoped that Mr Cook has learnt the lessons of this affair and is today more diplomatic with colleagues at home and abroad than he has so far been with the select committee.

## ROCK OF AGES

Or how Debbie burst from her Jurassic Park

Pop music used to be sung by the young to outrage the old. Now it is sung by the old to embarrass the young. More than 30 years have passed since the Stones set their rock revolution rolling. The generation who first grooved along to concerts has grown up to a museum-going middle age. And the announcement that Britain is to open a National Museum for Popular Music is just another sign of this maturity.

Based in Sheffield, this Jurassic Park of pop will revive the personalities of lost decades. The centre's four circular exhibition halls will house a surround-sound auditorium and several themed rooms. Visitors will be taken on a whistle-stop tour of world pop. And music that was born of a spirit of rebellion will be placed firmly in the context of society's cultural canon.

In harking back to bygone times, this centre will serve to reflect current fashions in pop. Funky sounds that should be little more than fond memories have in recent years been enjoying a cultural comeback. Faded stars are shooting back up the charts. Slade had a revival when the Brit band Oasis covered their classic *Cum On Feel the Noise*. Engelbert Humperdinck, the easy listening old crooner, has recently been remixed to a dance band beat. Some 20 years since Debbie Harry sang a

succession of number ones, the Blondie bombshell has blasted her way back to the prime pop slot. Even Elvis Presley appears to have proved himself a virtual reality. The dead King recently took headline billing at Wembley, and packed the arena.

Some may complain that, by providing a permanent monument to what should be essentially ephemeral, the National Museum of Popular Culture will destroy the thing that it most professes to love: the spirit of protest from which rock culture rose. The museum curators and exhibition designers hope that the centre, through educating visitors, will inspire them to make music themselves, to take up an instrument or form a band. They hope further to feed and encourage one of Britain's most vibrant and lucrative industries.

In comparison with other forms of cultural expression, with writing or painting, for example, pop is still in adolescence. Its pulse beats strong. Its music may currently be going through a phase of imitations, of retro remixes and rebranded names. But with the imagination and innovation of each generation, pop will rebel and find new fashions. And the rock of ages can only serve as a firm foundation for music's future.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### 'Haunting' lessons of Balkan history

From Colonel Charles H. Wilson (ret'd)

Sir, The reservations in your timely leading article, "Gladstone's shade" (February 3), urging Mr Blair to give the full reasons to the British people for putting troops in harm's way in Kosovo are well made.

However, they ought to be alarmed when friendly peers such as Lord Williams of Mostyn and Lord McNally (letter, February 6) show a more than keen interest in the performance and procedures of the Press Complaints Commission. Former PCC member Gerald Isaaman (letter, same day) also highlights the need for a fundamental reappraisal of the PCC's remit.

All had one thing in common, an intensive pride in their movement. For them the outside world did not seem of interest or importance. What mattered was their war of National Liberation, their struggle, their victories, their sacrifices.

On the subject of the Nato intervention force — variously put at about 35,000, of which Britain will provide the lion's share proportionately — patiently there is little to compare between the Balkan war of the Forties and the present turmoil. Nonetheless it is a haunting thought that the Germans and Italians employed upwards of ten divisions with supporting troops and aircraft (200,000 men) against the Partisans. Whenever the Axis troops came near to success the Partisans extricated themselves, faded away and reappeared elsewhere to fight another day.

Two facts have not changed, the doughtiness of the Slav soldier and his devotion to a cause.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES WILSON,  
Foxhills,

70 Long Road, Framingham Earl,  
Norwich NR14 7RZ.

February 5.

From Mr G. L. Leigh

Sir, Does the United Kingdom owe a duty to the Kosovan people? If so, how does it arise and what precisely is its extent? If the answer is humanitarian and limitless I wonder why we do not dispatch troops worldwide, e.g. to stop the Hindus and Tutsis killing one another.

You hint in your leading article that war in the Balkans must be stopped as international instability threatens our trading interests. How so? Arms are one of our principal exports.

Yours faithfully,  
G. L. LEIGH,

85 Leith Mansions,  
Granville Road, Maida Vale, W9 1LJ.

February 4.

From Mr Garth ap Rees

Sir, Gladstone's shade walks not only in the Balkans but in Africa as well. In 1894, the final year of his last administration, Uganda was granted the status of a British protectorate by the Crown. A Tenniel *Punch* cartoon depicted Uganda as a foundling placed at the feet of Queen Victoria.

Your leading article refers to British troops serving the cause of European peace and that, as "a trading nation with global interests", Britain must be "prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened".

The inference here is that we do not regard the current events in Sudan, Somalia, the countries of the Great Lakes region, Angola and Liberia as threats to international stability, despite trading with them. Only Sierra Leone merits a "punishment" and considerable additional support for a democratically elected President, a resolute and admirable High Commissioner and embarrassment over the Sandline involvement.

After a lifetime of working in and for Africa, dating from 1958, I can only reflect sadly that, irrespective of the government of the day, the final score-line always reads Europe 1 Africa 0. Despite all the talk of globalisation, it seems to me that basic attitudes have barely changed for a century.

Yours faithfully,  
GARTH AP REES  
(Member, UN Development  
Programme, 1964-92),  
Cranhill House, Piers Road,  
Cranmore, Somerset BA4 4QH.

February 4.

Exploring Mars

From Dr Patrick Moore

Sir, Your report (February 2) on plans for a robot aircraft, *Kitty Hawk*, to fly over the Red Planet takes me back to the only conversation I ever had with Orville Wright at the very start of the Second World War, when I was an (admittedly under-age) teenager learning how to fly.

I had about ten minutes' talk and I well remember saying: "Will we ever fly to the Moon?" He paused, and said: "Well, they said we couldn't fly over the Earth, but we did."

Nell Armstrong, the first man on the Moon, and Orville Wright, the first airman, could have met. I am sure they didn't, but their lives overlapped.

Where is the first man on Mars?

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK MOORE,

Farthings, West Street,

Selsey, Sussex PO20 9AD.

February 7.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Editors face 'war' over regulation

From the Executive Director of the Association of British Editors

Sir, Editors should not be unduly concerned about being unloved by the politicians nor, for that matter, by the low esteem in which they are held by Middle England.

However, they ought to be alarmed when friendly peers such as Lord Williams of Mostyn and Lord McNally (letter, February 6) show a more than keen interest in the performance and procedures of the Press Complaints Commission. Former PCC member Gerald Isaaman (letter, same day) also highlights the need for a fundamental reappraisal of the PCC's remit.

being waged against them by self-interested politicians.

Yours faithfully,  
JOCK GALLAGHER,

Executive Director,  
Association of British Editors

49 Frederick Road, Birmingham B15 1HN.

From Sir Richard Storey

Sir, On the matter of the Press Complaints Commission's right to initiate an investigation, Lord Wakeham (February 6) expresses his somewhat legalistic and pedantic views trenchantly, but they are helium!

The Press Council, on which I was privileged to serve under the then Mr Patrick Neill (now Lord Neill of Bladen) and subsequently under Sir Zelman Cowen, both conspicuously brilliant and distinguished chairmen, did undertake its own investigations without prior complaint. It was respectable, by reason of its very high standards of adjudication, albeit not everywhere respected — partly owing to its self-imposed laborious procedures in the name of natural justice, partly to the political climate of the time.

So far as I recall, such a right of investigation was easy to assume, undertake, and accomplish; I have always advocated it for the PCC.

Surely other self-regulatory bodies are, typically, able to investigate without prior complaint and also have teeth, for the lack of which the present PCC is frequently, and probably rightly, criticised.

Surely it is now time for the PCC to stop its special pleading and, by studying the virtues of other regulatory bodies, seek to emulate them in their powers of investigation and the penalties they impose.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD STOREY  
(Chairman, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers plc, 1973-98).  
Settrington House, Malton, Yorkshire YO17 8NP.  
February 8.

### Nuclear power

From Professor Ian Fells, FEng, FRSE

Sir, Sir Christopher Harding and Sir Bernard Ingham invite us to "embrace nuclear power" (letter, February 2; see also letters, February 6).

Over 40 years ago, when the industry was in its first flush of youth, we embraced it eagerly. Now, in mature middle age, it provides 17 per cent of world electricity. Without it, carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generators would rise by 17 per cent. Nevertheless, the green movement, despite its concern for the environment, cannot bring itself to see any virtue in nuclear power and is determined to close down the industry.

It seems to me that the way ahead must lie with "clean energy", which is a mix of renewable and nuclear energy. There is a synergy between them which is becoming apparent.

If anyone can show me how to provide the predicted doubling, even trebling of world energy demand post-2050 without a large nuclear input, particularly if some attempt is made to curb the carbon dioxide emissions, I shall be delighted.

But, if, as I suspect, this proves to be impossible, let us get on with making nuclear energy as safe and efficient as we can, instead of constantly sniping at it and demoralising the workforce.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN FELLS,  
University of Newcastle,  
Merz Court,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.  
February 6.

### Hoddle and Woodhead

From Mrs Helen Simmons

Sir, It seems that, according to the Government, a remark on a belief in reincarnation is grounds for sacking someone (letters, February 1, 3, 4, 5).

If, however, a high-ranking member of the teaching profession says it could be "educative on both sides" for an adult in a position of authority over a teenager (even though he has since apologised), then it seems the same Government doesn't think such a remark worthy of the sack (report, "Blunkett rejects call for inspector to resign", February 8).

Is the world crazy?

Yours,  
HELEN SIMMONS,  
Willow House, Swaffham Road,  
Wendling, Norfolk NR19 2AB.  
February 8.

### Business school fees

From Mr Wafic Rida Said

Sir, Your Diary column's report (February 2) on my role at the Business School at Oxford University is somewhat wide of the mark.

Firstly, the level of tuition fees charged by the Business School is nothing to do with me. I have no involvement in academic issues or in the running of the school. These are matters for the school's director and faculty, and the university more generally.

Secondly, you suggest that Oxford University "discouraged" my support for building the Business School. In

fact, my support for the school was solicited by the university's development office and Vice-Chancellor and the project was endorsed by an overwhelming majority of its dons.

Thirdly, you appear to believe that the school is mine and that it is merely "linked" to the university. The truth is that it is a fully integrated part of Oxford University which happens to bear my name in the same way that a host of other institutions carry the name of their major donors.

Yours faithfully,

WAIFIC



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 9: His Excellency Mr Vuong Thua Pong was received in audience by The Queen and presented his Letter of Credence as Ambassador of Vietnam to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Ngo Thi Phi Nga was received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Dr Richard Grant was received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for New Zealand in London.

The Dean of Westminster was received by The Queen.

The Lord Camrose (Lord Chamberlain) had an audience from the House of Lords to which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to make reply.

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**

February 9: The Hon Mrs Rhodes has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
February 9: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, today presented the 50th Prince's Youth Business Trust award to be made in Gloucestershire.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, The University of Wales, this afternoon held a lunch for the Pro-Chancellor, Senior Vice-Chancellor, Secretary General and a group of students.

The Prince of Wales, Vice

President, The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty, later visited Step Farm, one of the Trust's Organic Farms.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 9: The Prince Edward, President, this evening attended a performance of *Kissing Dance* given by the National Youth Music Theatre at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, King Street, London W6.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
February 9: The Princess Royal, Patron, Basic Skills Agency, this morning attended the British Council International Seminar at the Strand Palace Hotel, The Strand, London WC2.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon officially opened Moulsoor School, Bramble Close, Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Greater London.

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, later attended the Industry and Commerce Group Meeting, followed by a Reception at St James's Palace.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
February 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, today received Brigadier Jane Arigo on relinquishing her appointment as Director of Army Nursing Services, Matron-in-Chief (Army), and Colonel Bridget McEvily on assuming this appointment.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
February 9: The Duke of Kent, President, Edexcel Foundation, this morning attended Edexcel Student of the Year Awards at Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2.

**Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall**

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Air Marshal Sir Donald Hall, KCB, CBE, AFC, will be held on Thursday, April 29, 1999, at noon at St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2.

Those intending to be present are asked to notify the Ministry of Defence, Pld (Ceremonial) (RAF) on 0171 218 2524 or 2628.

## Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will open the General Osteopathic Council Building, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1, at 11.15.

The Princess Royal, president, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit the Scottish Apparel Group, 6th Floor, 5 Portland Place, London W1, at 10.15; as patron, the Home Farm Trust will attend their management board update meeting at Mitsubishi Electric, Kiernan Cross, 11 The Strand, London WC2, at 11.30; as president, Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, at 3.00; and will present the Whitley Award Scheme for International Conservation Awards at the Royal Geographical Society, 1

Kensington Gore, London SW7, at 6.30.

Princess Margaret, president, the Birmingham Royal Ballet, will attend the London Premiere of *The Prospect Before Us* and *The Protecting Veil* at the new Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1, at 7.30.

**Baron Williamson of Horton**

The life honour conferred upon Sir David Francis Williamson has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Williamson of Horton, of Horton in the County of Somerset.



Alexandra Aitken, Jonathan Aitken's daughter, modelling at a charity fashion show and party in aid of the NSPCC held yesterday at the K Bar, Chelsea.

## School news

**Harrow School**

In addition to the programme of events already circulated to members of the Harrow Association there will be a service in the School Chapel at 10.15am on Saturday, February 13, in commemoration of the late King Hussein of Jordan (OH). The scheduled Founder's Day service at 3pm will also include an act of commemoration.

**Eton College**

The following have won Music Awards in 1998:  
Music Scholarships: Gwynlyn Evans (The Cathedral School, Llandaff); Richard Jones (Hazelwood School); Jonathan Kamagastrom (St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury); Matthew Knight (Dulwich College Prep School); John Lazarus (Milbourne Lodge); Timothy Lowe (The Minster School, York); Charles Sibley (Coat Christ Church, St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury).

**Music Exhibitions**

Sébastien Hine (The Pilgrims' School); David Leslie (Westminster Cathedral Choir School); Andrew Lim (Summer Fields); Toby MacLachlan (Dolphin School); Patrick Meyer Higgins (Thomas'); Dominic Munton (The Cathedral Choir School, Ripon); Peter Rice (Newnham).

**Music Prizes**

Stephanie Bell (The Pilgrims' School); Daniel Bissell (Mils Gill Rehearsal executive, Sandown); Steve Fawcett (St Edmund's Junior School, Canterbury).

**Royal Caledonian Ball**

The Royal Caledonian Ball will be held on Thursday, April 29, at Grosvenor House, London W1. Dinner at 8pm Park Lane 7.30pm for Spin, £100; £100 to include a half bottle of wine.

The Ball commences at 10.30pm with dancing until 3.30am. Tickets at £50 to include wine, whisky and full breakfast. General enquiries to Mrs Roger Tym, tel: 01264 810361; fax: 01264 810371; email: royalcal@btconnect.com. Tickets applications to Mrs Nicholas Bardwell, 24 Onslow Road, Road, Richmond, Surrey TW10 6QE, tel: answerphone: 0181 940 8079; fax: 0181 332 9448.

## Birthdays today

**Mr Larry Adler, mouth organist, 85; Mr Michael Apted, film director, 58; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, 72; Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, British Midland Airways, 57; Miss Olwyn Boweypainter, 63; Dr Alexander Comfort, physician, poet and novelist, 79; Mr John Hayes, former secretary-general, Law Society, 54; The Rev Donald Hilton, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, 67; Major Norman Kark, former Editor, *Courier*, 101; Mr Peter Middleton, former chief executive, Lloyd's, 59; Lord Milne, 90; Mr Greg Norman, golfer, 44; Lord Orr-Ewing, 87; Mr Nicholas Owen, broadcaster, 52; Group Captain Sir Gordon Price, 81; Miss Leontine Price, soprano, 81; Mr Steve Pugh, former footballer, 46; Miss Gill Rehearsal executive, Sandown, Isle of Wight, 26; Mr Mark Spitz, swimmer, 49; Mr Robert Wagner, actor, 69.**

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## Luncheon

**Dublin's Company**  
Mr Ian Combs, Master of the Company, Scholastics to Mr Richard Parsons-Jones and Mr Brian Long at a luncheon held yesterday at Vintners' Hall, Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, KT, was also present. To the function the Honorary Liveried Company was presented with the Honourary Livery of the Company.

**Reception**

**Rotary Club of London**  
The American Ambassador presented the Rotary International Award of Honour to Sir Sigismund Sternberg at a reception held yesterday at the American Embassy.

**Dinners**

**Foundation for Science and Technology**

Lord Jenkin of Roding, Chairman of the Council for the Foundation for Science and Technology, was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held at the Royal Society last night. Dr David Pisk, Professor Stephen Glaister, M Jean-François Abramatic and Mr Edward Gillespie were the speakers.

**The Electrical Contractors' Association**

Mr George Ashcroft, President of the Electrical Contractors' Association, presided at the Annual Dinner held last night at Grosvenor House. Mr Terry Rochester, CB, Chairman, Construction Client Forum, was principal guest and speaker. Office Bearers from leading Trade Associations, Comfederation and Federation, AEU, Civil Service, Members of Parliament and leading figures from the electrical industry were among those present.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Charles Lamb, essayist, London, 1775. Samuel Plimsoll, inventor of the Plimsoll line for ships, Bristol, 1856. Boris Pasternak, poet and novelist, Moscow, 1890. W.T. Tilden, tennis champion, Philadelphia, 1893. Harold Macmillan, 1st Earl of Stockton, Prime Minister 1957-63, London, 1964. Berolt Brecht, dramatist and theatre director, Augsburg, Germany, 1898. Joyce Grenfell, actress and broadcaster, London, 1910.

**DEATHS:** Sir William Dugdale, Carter King of Arms 1677-86. Blyth Hall, Warwickshire, 1686. Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, philosopher, Paris, 1755. Alexander Pushkin, writer, 1837. Samuel Prout, watercolourist, Carmel, 1852. David Thompson, explorer, Longueuil, Quebec, 1857. Francis Danby, painter, Exmouth, 1861. David Brewster, philosopher, Allerley, Melrose, 1868. Joseph Lister, 1st Baron Lister, surgeon and pioneer of antisepic surgery, Walmer, Kent, 1912. Wilhelm Konrad von Rontgen, discoverer of X-rays, Nobel laureate 1901. Munich, 1923. Achille Ratti, Pope Pius XI 1922-39, Rome, 1939. Hugh Montague Trenchard, 1st Viscount Trenchard, Marshal of the RAF, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police 1931-35, 1956.

**Marriage**

Surgeon Lieutenant J.F. Welch, RN, and Miss M.J. Lees.

The marriage took place in Edinburgh, on January 30, 1999, of Surgeon Lieutenant Jamie F. Welch, RN, to Miss Mari Lees. The Rev Nicholas Pneumatico, RN, officiated.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr R.C. Harwood-Matthews** and **Miss C.L. Smith**

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Harwood-Matthews, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Smith, of Brighton, Sussex.

**Mr S.M. Hoare** and **Miss A. Cainre**

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr David Hoare and Mrs Vanessa Hoare, of Luscombe, Devon, and Audele, daughter of M and Mme Jean-François Cainre, of Paris.

**Mr R. McCadden** and **Miss I.A. Taylor**

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Richard McCadden and the late Mrs McCadden, of Glasgow, and Angela, daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Taylor, of Chiswick, New Zealand.

**Mr G.R. McCormick** and **Miss I.A. Wina**

The engagement is announced between Gregory Radcliffe, son of Mr Radcliffe McCormick, of Chelsea, London, and of Mrs Joan McCormick, of Kensington, London, and Alexandra, second daughter of Mr Mark Wina, and the late Mrs Wina, of Sutton, Surrey, and Mr G. Elliott, of Limoux, France.

## Marriage

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## University news

The Queen's University of Belfast's Queen's University has won research funding of more than £2.3 million.

The latest grants have come from a wide range of sources, including industry, charities, Government departments and the European Union.

The funding is for studies across the university's disciplines, from science, engineering and health sciences to agriculture, the humanities, law and social sciences. The university's Institute of Telemedicine and Telecare has also benefited.

The largest single grant — £266,468 from European Union Framework Funds — has been awarded to Professor Trevor Whitaker of the School of Civil Engineering.

The funding is for work on the first commercial-scale Limerick wave energy module which is being established on the island of Islay in the inner Hebrides.

The package includes awards totalling more than £675,000 for a number of studies in the university's School of Medicine, including research into ageing, leukaemia, bladder tumours and the cardio-

**BMDS: 0171 680 6880  
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000**

## PERSONAL COLUMN

**TRADE: 0171 481 1982  
FAX: 0171 481 9313**

**BIRTHS**

**ATTERTON** - On February 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Hannah [née] Atterton and William, a brother for Ella and Edward.

**BARKER** - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Vanessa and Grant, a son, Frederick Christopher John.

**BERGER** - On January 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Ann [née] Berger and Geoffrey, a daughter, Rachel Jane.

**CLAXTON** - On February 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Diane and Gary, a daughter, Sung-Sung, Elizabeth, wife of Gary.

**COMPFT** - On January 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona and Philip, a son, William, and a daughter, Sophie.

**DESAI** - On February 3rd at The Portland Hospital, to Fiona and Vip, a son, Jay.

**FORSYTH** - Karen [née] Dickson and Mitchell are to announce the birth of their first child, a son, Christopher John, on January 21st.

**HAWKE** - On 8th February 1999, to Bronwen [née] James and Edward, a son, Alfie Julian, at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

**HOGH** - On February 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Mervyn and Thérèse, twin daughters, Catherine and Josephine, sisters for Ramona.

**HOMES** - On February 5th, to Phil and Amanda [née] Meech, a son, Samuel Luke Trip.

**JEWELL** - On 2nd February 1999, to David and Dari, and Matthew, twin sons, Thomas William and Harry Frederick, brothers for Olivia.

**KINSELLA** - On 3

## OBITUARIES

## SIR DAVID MUIRHEAD

Sir David Muirhead, KCMG, CVO, former Ambassador to Portugal, Peru and Belgium, died on February 3 aged 80. He was born on December 30, 1918.

In appearance swarthy and bulky, David Muirhead looked like the successful owner of one of the great bullockies in Spain or Mexico. He had a touch of arrogance and swagger in his bearing which implied a natural belief in his own capacity to lead. The Spanish flavour of his personality was not accidental. His mother was Mexican and he was born in Mexico. His father was Scottish and worked for the Bank of London and South America.

Muirhead thus brought to his career in the Diplomatic Service a mixture of qualities linked to his ancestry and upbringing: a quick and shrewd intuition; a sensitivity often concealed by gregariousness and bonhomie; a love of ceremonial and uniforms; a strong patriarchal sense of family; good humour and a fondness for company; good food and wine and, at a deeper level, a strong Christian faith which rendered him humble and surprisingly vulnerable.

David Francis Muirhead was educated at Cranbrook School, where he was an able boy and a good athlete, playing rugby for the school. His father lost money in the Depression years and he had to make his own way early in life. He never went to university, which he regretted later on, and he always had an autodidact's exaggerated respect for academic achievement and cleverness, though he was not given to an over-generous view of intellect.



halls in general or of those with no practical or managerial capacity.

He went from school straight into the City. In the Merchant Exchange, before the outbreak of war he joined the Sotheby's Rifles, and he was soon commissioned after passing through Sandhurst. He was then recruited by the Special Operations Executive, trained in parachuting in Scotland and sent in April 1941 to Gibraltar where he and the others members of his party were to organise Spanish resistance in the event of a German invasion of Spain.

When it became clear that Hitler would not invade, Muirhead was posted to Madrid as an assistant to the British naval attaché. There, he made contact with Spanish sympathisers to secure their help in operations against German interests in Spain. He also worked on escape routes for SOE agents, escaped prisoners of war and downed airmen coming over the Pyrenees from France and aiming for the freedom of Gibraltar and beyond. He finished the war as a lieutenant-colonel.

His next appointment was as Ambassador to Portugal, 1970-74, in the declining years of Salazar. He was deeply devoted to his people — he was proud that

his wife's illness and death in 1984. But he cannot always have been an easy husband and father, imbued as he was with a strong strain of the patriarchal and a distaste for deviation from traditional forms. This was counterbalanced by an impish sense of humour and by the huge zest he brought to all his activities. He had especially a love of anniversaries, birthdays and family treats.

In 1946 he joined the Foreign Service. His early years were spent in Latin America, Washington and Brussels, and this led in 1959 to his appointment as head of Foreign Office personnel at a time of reforms and reductions in senior staff. He was a good and decisive choice of people, though he had his critics, some of whom thought he was guilty of favouritism. But he was fun to work with and had a humane regard for his colleagues. He remained in this influential post for the unusually long period of seven years, a testament to his judgment and dependability.

In 1967 he was appointed Ambassador to Peru, where he was much liked by the Peruvians. He was bilingual in Spanish and had qualities which the Peruvians admired, of gregariousness, a love of storytelling, late nights and a capacity to drink most of them under the table. His natural empathy with people, especially Latin people, his linguistic skills and his love of a good time created an outgoing and friendly atmosphere.

He held the Portugal Grand Cross of the Order of Christ and the Grand Cross of Peru. He leaves two sons and a daughter, who is the wife of Sir David Gore-Booth, the former British High Commissioner in New Delhi.

when the Revolution came he knew many of the new leaders well — and he travelled increasingly in Portugal and its colonies. He ended his career as Ambassador to Belgium, a country for which he had deep affection, having served there earlier in his career and where, as always, he had a host of friends.

David Muirhead was a traditionalist with a deep sense of patriotism. More complex and emotional than first appeared, he was not at all averse to the great and the good, nor to the protocol of diplomacy. He enjoyed his part in organising the ceremonies for the funeral of Winston Churchill, and on that harsh January day he cut an imposing figure in his diplomatic uniform among the visiting heads of state and envoys.

He relished the post, in retirement, of Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and cheerfully accepted some of the tedious and routine aspects of meeting and greeting foreign politicians and diplomats. He was a member of the War Graves Commission, in which he made a notable contribution. He had a most retentive memory, was a formidable bridge player and a good tennis player, with a mean cut shot. He was for some years churchwarden at St Mary Abbots, Kensington, and his religious sense tempered a domineering streak in his nature.

He held the Portugal Grand Cross of the Order of Christ and the Grand Cross of Peru. He leaves two sons and a daughter, who is the wife of Sir David Gore-Booth, the former British High Commissioner in New Delhi.

## ROBERT DOUGLAS



Norman v Saxon: Douglas as de Bracy, at right, in the house of Cedric in *Ivanhoe*, 1951

**Robert Douglas**, British actor and director, died at his California home on January 11 aged 89. He was born on November 9, 1909.

AN ACTOR who made a virtue of portraying suave villains, Robert Douglas was a familiar face on cinema screens in a series of Hollywood swashbucklers in the Forties and Fifties. Whether in the 17th-century Spain of *The Adventures of Don Juan*, the Angevin England of *Ivanhoe* or the Ruritanian fantasy land of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, he brought a consummate professionalism to what he did, ensuring that even if playing a supporting role, he was never in danger of being outshone.

As the Duke of Lorraine, he certainly spiced up *Don Juan*, the last major appearance of his old friend Errol Flynn, whose talents had by then become eroded almost beyond recognition through his dissipated habits. Douglas's energetic acting contributed to one of the film's most striking scenes, a staircase swordfight with Flynn as the wily Don, which remains one of the classics of the genre. It also established a duration record for a sword duel on screen.

In an *Ivanhoe* in which every other character was threatened with eclipse by the arresting beauty of the young Elizabeth Taylor, he and

George Sanders as the ill-intentioned Norman knights Hugh de Bracy and Brian de Bois Guilbert stood their ground better than most of the cast. Certainly they and the sense of menace they conveyed remain in the memory long after Robert Taylor, as the eponymous (and somewhat goody-goody) hero, and Joan Fontaine, the rather insipid Saxon heroine Rowena, have faded from it.

Robert Douglas was trained for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He had his debut at the Theatre Royal, Bournemouth, in July 1927 as Bertie Lennox in *The Best People* and, after a season of touring, made his first appearance on the London stage the following summer. In November 1929 he made his debut on Broadway.

Over the next ten years he was busy both in London and New York, playing, among other things, opposite Laurence Olivier in *The Last Emperor*. Having acted the role of Colin Derwent in *Ten Minute Alibi* in January 1933 at the Embassy Theatre, Swiss Cottage, he went into management with Ronald Adam and they presented the classic murder thriller at the Haymarket in February of that year. It was to run for two years.

He had appeared in several British films during the 1930s including *The Barley Stone*

(1933), *London Melody* (1937), *Over the Moon* (1938), in which he played opposite Rex Harrison and Merle Oberon, and *The Lion Has Wings* (1939). But it was after the war, during which he served as a pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, that his screen career really took off, with his return to America and Hollywood where, in 1947, he was put under contract by Warner Bros.

Thereafter he made screen villainy his stock in trade and his list of credits reads like a Hollywood anthology of the period: *Don Juan* (1948); *Homicide* (1949); *Spy Hunt*, *Kim*, *Mystery Submarine* (1950); *At Sword's Point* (with Cornell Wilde and Maureen O'Hara); *Ivanhoe*, *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1952) and many more.

He directed stage plays and acted on television, too, but with the advent of the Sixties he gravitated to directing and producing. Many Warner Bros shows of the period — *77 Sunset Strip*, *Hawaiian Eye*, *Maverick* — were directed by him as were episodes of *Medical Center*, *Quincy*, *The Streets of San Francisco* and *Columbo* for other companies.

His first marriage, to the actress Dorothy Hyson, was dissolved (and she later married Anthony Quayle). In 1947 Douglas married Suzanne Weldon. She predeceased him, but he is survived by a son and a daughter.

## LORD JUSTICE WALLER

Sir George Waller, PC, OBE, Judge of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, 1965-76, and a Lord Justice of Appeal, 1976-84, died on February 5 aged 87. He was born on August 3, 1911.

IN THE 1960s George Waller was one of a small number of judges whose coming to the Bench seemed to reflect a change in policy about judicial appointments. Before then judges were chosen, with very few exceptions, from the leading London barristers. Ability to conduct a large civil practice

in London, however, was not always a suitable qualification for trying criminal and personal injury cases on circuit — which was how the Queen's Bench judges then spent the greater part of their working year.

Waller was not a London practitioner; he was a circuituer. After his call to the Bar in 1934 he started in practice in Newcastle upon Tyne and until he went on the Bench nearly all his work was on the North Eastern Circuit. There he acquired a far wider experience of the administration of justice than do most London

practitioners who tend to specialise in one aspect of the law. It was this width of experience which made him such a good judge. He brought to the Bench not only a knowledge of how the law works but a knowledge of how the law affects the lives of ordinary people in an industrial society. He understood, far better than most judges, human reactions to stress and crises. He had an ability to feel for those in trouble and difficulties which, together with his open-mindedness towards changing moral standards, made him the very opposite of the common idea

of the rigidly moralistic and conservative judge.

George Stanley Waller was educated at Oundle and Queens' College, Cambridge.

where he was more distinguished in athletics than examinations. He gained a Blue for rugby and was a member of the University Air Squadron. This led to his serving in Coastal Command throughout the war. By its end he had become a wing commander and had been mentioned in dispatches. In 1945 he was appointed OBE.

After the war he returned to practise at the Bar. He was chairman of the Northern District Valuation Board from 1948 to 1958, a QC in 1954; Recorder of Doncaster 1953-54; of Sunderland 1954-55; of Bradford 1955-57; of Sheffield 1957-61; and of Leeds from 1961 until his appointment to the High Court in 1965.

After he had been appointed to the High Court Bench, with the customary knighthood, the Home Office took advantage of the wide breadth of his social and legal experience. He served on the Parole Board from 1969 to 1972, becoming vice-chairman in 1971. He was a member of the Advisory Council on the Penal System from 1970 to 1975, chairman of the Policy Advisory Committee on Sexual Offences from its formation in 1977 until 1985; and a member of the Criminal Law Revision Committee during the time it was considering sexual offences. To all his committee work he brought humour and humanity.

He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1984. He was not a great jurist and never deluded himself that he was. He usually got the right answer, even if sometimes it was by intuition rather than by learning.

In 1986 he married Elizabeth Margery ("Peg"), daughter of the 1st Lord Hacking. She survives him, together with a daughter and two sons. The latter have distinguished themselves in the law: one, like his father as a Lord Justice of Appeal, the other as a criminologist in Canada.

It was, though, the decision to involve herself with the RGS that was to shape and mould her life. Long before she was elected a fellow in 1971, she had accepted an invitation to become assistant editor of *The Geographical Journal* — a taxing position she was to hold for 20 years.

She got her first foothold on the ladder of the society's hierarchy by serving on its

## DOROTHY MIDDLETON

Dorothy Middleton, writer and geographer, died on February 3 aged 89. She was born on November 9, 1909.



Dorothy Middleton at the time of her marriage

maps and library committee, eventually becoming virtually the doyenne among its members. In 1973, two years after being elected a fellow, she joined the society's council, becoming an RGS vice-president from 1976 to 1979 and then an honorary vice-president from 1987 until her death.

She was one of the most familiar figures in and around the society's grand premises in Kensington Gore, and could even claim to have played her part there in the battle for sex equality: she was one of the first women to be elected to the Geographical Dining Club when — 150 years after its foundation — it ceased to be a purely male preserve. She also represented the RGS on the council of the Hakluyt Society.

Dorothy Butler, as she was before her marriage, was the second daughter and third child of Sir Montagu Butler and his wife Ann. At the time of her birth, her father was the Indian Civil Service Deputy Commissioner in Lahore the

evening became Governor of the Central Provinces but it was not in India that she spent her childhood.

Children of the Raj were generally shipped home at the age of six or seven and because she had an older brother needing to go to prep school, Dorothy (or "Dot" as she was always known within the family) was brought home to England in 1911 at the age of two. The outbreak of the First World War meant that there was no question of going back — and, in any event, their father had also returned home in 1912 in order to become secretary to a Royal Commission on the Indian Public Services.

Despite her subsequent interests, her formative years were spent very much in the Home Counties. She went to a girls' boarding school but, although she and her elder sister Iris both showed marked ability, there seems to have been no suggestion that either of them should go to a university — if only because all the money that was available was needed to send Rab Butler (and later his younger brother Jock) to Cambridge. The nearest Dorothy got to a university was when, as a young woman, she went to live in Cambridge, where her father had become Master of Pembroke College.

In 1938, just before the war — during which she worked for the Central Office of Information — she married Laurence Middleton, the senior partner in his firm of family solicitors. There were no children and he died in 1983. She is survived by her elder sister, Iris Butler.

## A New Voyage of Sindbad the Sailor

Chapter XII.

Why the monster Degial would not allow his guards either food or board wages the political consequences of regular meals. Degial makes a speech, and Sindbad lays a deep plan.

I had now been upwards of a month in Kabous, or the beautiful Isle of Blunders, that country so favoured by a benevolent nature, but which fate had destined to become the flaming and engorged scene of the atrocities of the arch-monster Degial. I confess that when I meditated on the apparent impossibility of achieving the task which I had undertaken, which it will be remembered, was no less than to extract forty hairs from his prodigious tail, and recollect the important results which were dependent on its consumption, I grew nervous and dispirited. Ashamed to show my face again at the Court of the good and suffering King Mihrage, and disgusted with my prolonged and hopeless residence in the domains of Degial, I could not refrain at times from sighing for some ship to enter its port, by which I might escape back to Bagdad; but such were the terror and dismay which the

## ON THIS DAY

February 10, 1837

The last in a series of articles by Benjamin Disraeli. The future Prime Minister had impressed the Editor with his political letters signed "Kunymede" in 1836. The "Sindbad" commentaries with public personages and events concealed in allegory were not a success.

rule of Degial had universally occasioned that the foreign commerce of kabous, as well as its internal trade, had entirely dwindled away, and with the exception of a few vessels from the kingdom I had recently quitted, the island was rarely visited.

Although Degial himself was now undisputed master of the whole island, with the exception of the camp in the northern part, in which the true believers were entrenched, and although the metropolis and all its splendour was completely at his disposal, nevertheless

faithful to his old and native habits, Degial preferred wallowing in the gloomy and filthy sty in which he had crushed himself in days of restriction to establishing himself in the viceregal palace, the civilized conveniences of which only troubled and tormented him. The only difference he made in his mode of life was, directing that the most exquisite repasts should be furnished daily for him by the Government cooks, and nothing delighted him more than to gorge his coarse appetite with all the refined inventions of Moslem cookery and drink to the health of Allah and the Prophet in the choicest wines of Persia.

It was in a vast cavern on the sea-shore, surrounded by wrecks, the contemplation of which always afforded him the most lively satisfaction, and the bleaching bones of the victims of the tempest, which he occasionally flung at the heads of any of his attendants who displeased him, that the monster was accustomed to pamper his rude palate and his gross punch with the levied delicacies of the whole isle, and after glutting himself to repletion, to sink into slumbers whose unquiet and agitated visions filled his mind with fresh combusions of terror and torture.

This was the moment to assail him — to steal into his noisome residence and pluck the fatal hairs that were the talisman of his power. But the cavern on every side was surrounded by his wild Dives, and to penetrate their ranks with impunity was evidently possible ...

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# THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

## NEWS

### Ethnic quotas for police forces

Jack Straw is ordering chief constables to treble black and Asian recruitment as part of an effort to salvage the reputation of the police before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report is published.

A national target of 7 per cent of officers from ethnic minorities will be imposed with forces required to introduce quotas, even in areas that are overwhelmingly white. The Home Secretary also intends to punish officers convicted of serious disciplinary offences by cutting their pensions.....Page 1

### Blair attack on arms report

Damning criticism by a Commons committee of the Foreign Office and its most senior official over their behaviour in the arms-to-Africa affair was contemptuously swept aside by Tony Blair and Robin Cook yesterday.....Pages 1, 8

### Ammunition crisis

The Armed Forces may have to rely on foreign suppliers for all its ammunition stocks after British Aerospace gave warning that its Royal Ordnance factories could close in six months.....Page 2

### Asylum housing

Jack Straw is to order local authorities to make empty houses and hostels available for asylum-seekers.....Page 4

### Much Ado

A British film, *Shakespeare in Love* stole the limelight at the Oscar nominations with 13, including the most coveted categories of Best Picture, Screenplay and Director.....Page 1

### War crimes trial

Britain's first war crimes trial was told that the 77-year-old man in court helped to kill Jews after embracing "with enthusiasm" the Nazi ideology.....Page 3

### Meningitis alert

Doctors will not know for nearly a week whether they have contained an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis that has killed three people in one town.....Page 5

### Better schools

State schools have achieved a big improvement in standards, despite there still being up to 15,000 incompetent teachers, said the Chief Inspector of Schools.....Page 6

### London wins EU wealth crown

Central London is the richest area in the European Union. The 2.7 million residents in the heart of the capital enjoy wealth more than twice the rate of the EU average, a survey reported. However, the contrast between the capital and the rest of the UK was marked. Britain has the biggest disparities and is 10th out of 15 in the EU wealth league.....Page 1



After the heaviest snowfalls in Switzerland since 1984, a woman walks her dog through the calm beauty of Waltensburg yesterday. Page 4

## BUSINESS

### Job losses: SmithKline Beecham

the pharmaceutical group vulnerable to a takeover, announced plans to cut 3,000 jobs worldwide in a cost-cutting campaign.....Page 21

### BA difficulties

Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, the chairman of British Airways, said that difficulties are unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.....Page 21

### Chief sacked

Vaux, the Sunderland-based brewing and hotel group, was the subject of renewed takeover speculation after the sacking of its chief executive following a boardroom feud.....Page 21

### Olympic corruption

Three top Salt Lake City Olympic officials were identified yesterday as lynchpins in the corruption scandal that has clouded the future of the 2002 Winter Games and the entire Olympic movement.....Page 24

### Markets

The FTSE 100 index fell 55.00 to 5779.9. The pound rose 0.38 cents to \$1.6365 but fell 0.15p against the euro to 69.04p. The index remained at 100.6.....Page 37

### EU rebel fight

The right of a Eurocrat to dissent is to be tested in the European Court today when it hears a claim for wrongful dismissal from Bernard Connolly who tried to "blow the whistle" on the project for monetary union.....Page 10

### Football

Lee Dixon, the 35-year-old Arsenal defender, was stunned by his recall to the England team for tonight's match against world champions France.....Page 40

### Racing

Teeton Mill, winner of the King George VI Chase at Kempton recently, is top-weight and favourite for the Grand National on April 10.....Page 35

### Tennis

Tim Henman scored a quickfire first-round victory over Zimbabwean Wayne Black in the Dubai Open.....Page 37

### Rugby union

Millionaire Sir John Hall is pulling off a hat-trick of Premiership titles as the Allied Dunbar champions. Sir John has become increasingly disillusioned with the relationship with the Rugby Football Union.....Page 37

### Modemist

In choosing to depart with minimal attention, Dame Iris was at the vanguard of a modern movement.....Page 31

### Rising star

Actress Sarah Smart won acclaim for "the most nerve-racking day" of her life, improvising in BBC2's *Trial By Jury* series. Now she wants more challenging parts.....Page 31

### Film buff

The 29-year-old British artist Steve McQueen is raising his profile with a one-man show of films, sculpture and photography at the ICA.....Page 32

### Nuclear fizz

After scoring a hit last year at the National Theatre, Michael Frayn's masterly Second World War play *Copenhagen* transfers to the West End.....Page 33

### Modernist

In choosing to depart with minimal attention, Dame Iris was at the vanguard of a modern movement.....Page 31

### Rocket scientist

How the creation of N, an atomic freak of nature, promises unexpected advances in rocket propellants.....Page 14

### Nigel Hawkes

"The evidence linking heart disease to a common bug is growing". Plus, solar power breakthrough and the pecking order for preening.....Page 14

### No idea

"We men have absolutely no idea of what women really want from us so it seems churlish to make specific requests of our own," says James Brown.....Page 15

### Rock of ages

Pop music used to be sung by the young to outrage the old. Now it is sung by the old to embarrass the young.....Page 1

### BRONWEN MADDOX

An astounding year in American politics has left as many losers as

winners. Most of all, there are scores of plain victims, with priva-

cy and family finances now sha-

tered.....Page 16

### ALAN COREN

On the lonely pavement I could

slip from my coat-pocket a pack of

Silk Cut whose titchy golden es-

cuteen would catch the moon-

light, lion and unicorn rampant to

assure me that what I was about to

ignite had been personally appoint-

ed by my sovereign lady? Not

smoke? Dear God, it seemed an act

of treason to abstain!.....Page 16

### SIMON JENKINS

The proper question for a select

committee is, what on earth were

we doing meddling in Sierra Le-

one? How much of the blood now be-

ing shed in that miserable country

is on Britain's hands?.....Page 16

### PRICE GAP

Why a Georgian house

can cost anything from £20,000 to

£15 million, in *People & Property*

### PRICE GAP

There is evidence that Mr Mugabe

may be persuaded to pull back if he

is subjected to pressure. His at-

tempts to confiscate white farms

had a disastrous impact on the na-

tional economy. He should now be

pressured to accept the rule of law

on press freedoms

— *The Sydney Morning Herald*

### PRICE GAP

Sir David Muirhead, ambassador

Robert Douglas, actor; Lord Just-

ice Waller; Dorothy Middleton, ge-

ographer.....Page 19

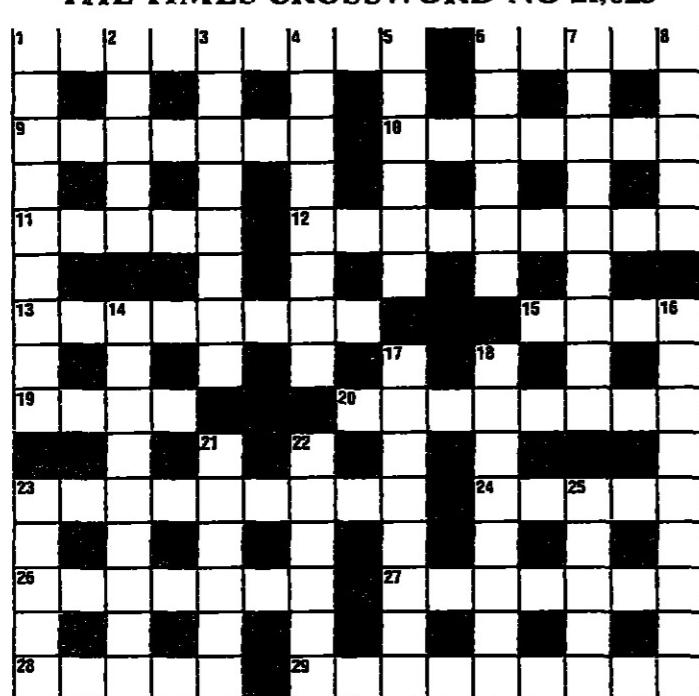
### KOSOVO CRISIS

newspaper regulation; Lords reform;

nuclear power and "clean" energy; alcohol and air

rage; travel to Mars.....Page 17

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**Meet  
the new  
Sensation**

Arts, Page 32



BUSINESS • LAW • SPORT • ARTS • TELEVISION

# THE TIMES



**Noel  
Jazzes  
it up**

Arts, Page 31

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

## Sacking of Vaux chief renews talk of takeover

By DOMINIC WALSH

VAUX, the brewing and hotel group based in Sunderland, was the subject of renewed takeover speculation last night after the shock sacking of its chief executive and finance director after a boardroom feud.

In a terse statement, the group said that Martin Grant, chief executive since June, and Neal Gossage had "left the company with immediate effect and have ceased to be directors". Peter Catesby, the managing director of its Swallow Hotels division, has been appointed group chief executive.

Analysts believe that the departures could prompt interest from rival hoteliers, including David Michels, the Stakis chief executive. Mr Michels made an unsuccessful attempt to buy the company last year and observers believe that the forthcoming sale of Stakis to Ladbrooke need not be a barrier to a £400 million bid for Vaux.

The clash at Vaux is understood to relate to the board's recent decision to name a management buyout team as preferred bidder for the two breweries and 550 tenanted pubs put up for sale in September. The MBO, led by Frank Nicholson, brother of the group's chairman, Sir Paul Nicholson, is worth an estimated £70 million and is backed by Alchemy Partners, the venture capitalist.

Mr Nicholson, who has been given a four-week period of exclusivity in which to conclude a deal, was the only bidder for the entire package, the only other substantial bid being one of about £15 million from its close neighbour, Mansfield Brewery, for a package of 115 pubs and the Wards Brewery in Sheffield, which would have been closed.

Messrs Grant and Gossage are said to have favoured the Mansfield deal, which would have meant Vaux retaining the other 235 pubs and closing the Sunderland brewery for redevelopment — a controversial decision given the implications for jobs in an area already badly hit by the manufacturing crisis. The pair are said to have argued that such a move, allied to a new beer supply agreement with one of the big brewers, would have been worth £25 million more than the MBO bid.

Although the decision to go with the MBO was taken by a subcommittee consisting of the independent non-executive directors and the group's advisers, BT Alex Brown and Noble Grossart, the two men are said to have privately approached some of Vaux's biggest institutional shareholders to express their unhappiness with the decision.

A source said last night: "This had been brewing for some time. Grant's decision to centralise the running of the company rubbed people up the wrong way, and he never felt comfortable with Vaux's north-eastern culture. Their decision to go to institutions was viewed as going behind the backs of the rest of the board." *Tempus*, page 24

# SmithKline Beecham poised to shed 3,000

By PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM, the pharmaceutical group seen as vulnerable to a takeover, yesterday unveiled a wide-ranging shake-up that will include the loss of 3,000 jobs and the sale of businesses worth \$2 billion (£1.2 billion).

Jan Leschly, chief executive, pledged the group to make savings of £200 million a year by 2002 — and to increase its underlying earnings by 13 per cent this year, before accelerating to "mid- to high-teens growth" in 2000 and 2001.

The sales of Diversified Pharmaceutical Services for \$700 million and of 70 per cent of SB Clinical Laboratories for \$1.025 billion will reduce the group to its biggest and most profitable businesses in pharmaceuticals and consumer healthcare.

Mr Leschly reiterated his confidence in a strong, independent future for SB, which has been questioned since the collapse of its proposed merger with Glaxo Wellcome a year ago. He said: "We are a stronger company, we are focused more than ever on consumers and pharmaceuticals, and we have retained our access to valuable data [from DPS and Clinical Laboratories]."

He added: "We are not talking to anybody, we are not planning to talk to anybody. The discussions with Glaxo Wellcome are behind us."

SB's shares rose 33p to 831/4p, although the 6 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £1.7 billion it reported was slightly below the consensus of forecasts. Analysts remain convinced of the potential for further deals between the world's leading drug companies.

Most of the 3,000 jobs will be lost in manufacturing, as SB closes or sells some of its 67 plants around the world to create

site "centres of excellence". The company would not spell out the likely impact on the UK.

The efficiency drive, which will also include global purchasing agreements, will cost £750 million to implement over four years. The first £90 million, including £38 million of asset write-offs, were charged against the 1998 results.

SB also lost £446 million after tax on the sale of DPS,



Jan Leschly, chief executive, who committed SmithKline Beecham to an independent future

## BA's difficulties set to continue, says Marshall

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

LORD MARSHALL of Knightsbridge, the chairman of British Airways, said yesterday that difficulties in the airline business are unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.

The comments came as the airline posted a quarterly pre-tax loss for the first time in four years. BA lost £75 million for the three months to December 31. In the comparable third quarter of the previous year it made a profit of £80 million.

Although the decision to go with the MBO was taken by a subcommittee consisting of the independent non-executive directors and the group's advisers, BT Alex Brown and Noble Grossart, the two men are said to have privately approached some of Vaux's biggest institutional shareholders to express their unhappiness with the decision.

A source said last night: "This had been brewing for some time. Grant's decision to centralise the running of the company rubbed people up the wrong way, and he never felt comfortable with Vaux's north-eastern culture. Their decision to go to institutions was viewed as going behind the backs of the rest of the board." *Tempus*, page 24



The economic turmoil in Asia and BA's dependence on business travel put pressure on the company's figures.

Lord Marshall said: "The situation is not likely to improve materially in the short term."

The overall pre-tax loss was exaggerated by movements in the yen inflating the size of BA's borrowings in Japan.

In the City, where analysts had expected worse news, the shares rose 74p to 3884p.

Commentary, page 23

## Walls has key role in Servisair bid battle

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

STEPHEN WALLS, who has become better known for his golden handshakes than his achievements in the boardroom, has emerged as a key player in the takeover battle for Servisair, the baggage handling group.

Mr Walls, who is a director of Servisair, is linked to a possible takeover bid being prepared for the company by Compass Partners, a manager of venture capital funds.

Compass yesterday refused to discuss the prospective bid,

or its ties to Mr Walls. Servisair confirmed he was "connected with a possible alternative bid for Servisair". If real, it causes me some concern because Stephen Walls clearly has an intimate knowledge of the accounts of the business," Mr Staples said.

Mr Walls is well remembered in the City for the remuneration packages he has reaped in return for his services to shareholders.

In its defence document sent to shareholders yester-

day, Servisair described Amey's offer as opportunistic. John Willis, the Servisair chief executive, said: "The offer we have does not reflect the customer relationships we have and the position we have in Europe to go forward."

However, Mr Staples described Servisair's defence as "jam tomorrow" and said that shareholders should be told whether there was an alternative bid.

Commentary, page 23

**Cordiant in the spotlight as Scott moves up**

By JASON NISSE

SPECULATION mounted yesterday about the future of Cordiant Communications Corporation, the advertising group that split from Saatchi & Saatchi a year ago, after Charles Scott moved up to executive chairman.

Cordiant said Mr Scott, non-executive chairman until yesterday, was now having to devote more time to the company. Four years ago a bitter feud between Mr Scott and the Saatchi brothers — Lord Saatchi and his brother Charles — led to their departure from the company they founded.

Yesterday Cordiant denied this latest move would have any impact on Mr Scott's professional relationship with Michael Bungey, the chief executive of Cordiant. A spokesman said Mr Scott was concentrating on investor relations and had to spend at least one day a week at Cordiant.

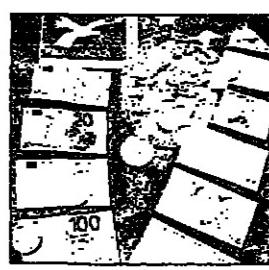
The company has been at the centre of bid speculation, which has linked it with both Tru North, the US advertising group, and WPP, the owner of Ogivly & Mather and J Walter Thompson. Cordiant has denied it has been in any takeover talks.

It also has two shareholders well known for their activism. David Herro, the Chicago fund manager who played a key role in the ousting of Lord Saatchi, holds a 12 per cent stake. Phillips & Drew, the fund manager that backed the ousting of David Montgomery at Mirror Group, has 22.8 per cent.

City analysts have noted that companies in which P&D has a large stake, such as Mirror, Wembley, MEPC, Booker and Sears, have been the subject of bid approaches in recent months, with P&D seen as a keen seller.

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### Forger's dream

Counterfeiting ready for arrival of euro notes

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5779.9	(-55.0)
Yield	2.7%	(-0.5%)
All Share	2670.85	(+2.2%)
Nikkei	13682.65	(+0.3%)
New York Dow Jones	9212.59	(-78.52%)
S&P Composite	1228.43	(-15.34%)

US RATE

Federal Funds	4.10%	(+0.5%)
Yield	4.08%	(+0.5%)
T-Bill	4.08%	(+0.5%)
Yield	4.08%	(+0.5%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5.0%	(+5.0%)
Libor long gilt future (Mar)	118.70	(116.30)

STERLING

New York	1.6357*	(1.6362)
London	1.6368	(1.6327)
SG	1.4485	(1.4515)
SGI	2.17	(2.17)
Yen	187.22	(185.65)
C Index	100.6	(100.6)

DOLLAR

London	1.1301*	(1.1302)
SG	1.1301	(1.1302)
SGI	1.1422	(1.1465)
Yen	104.9	(104.8)

Tokyo close Yen 114.69

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr.) \$10.30 (\$10.30)

GOLD

London close \$287.05 (\$286.75)

\* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ... Page 22

## Closure threat for Ordnance

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH AEROSPACE is to start closing its Royal Ordnance factories if it cannot find a buyer for the business — potentially cutting thousands of jobs.

The move, its first steps towards a shake-up of its defence systems, is part of a tough rationalisation programme designed to improve returns in defence systems.

The tough rationalisation programme would also cut a swathe through managerial ranks in other divisions and sell off unprofitable businesses. It comes ahead of BAE's planned £7 billion merger with GEC Marconi.

The threat to Royal Ordnance comes as the loss-making business struggles amid a massive decline in orders from the Ministry of Defence.

Ordnance threat, page 2

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OST 29/11/98

**Virgin to put £1.25bn into trains**

Richard Branson's Virgin Rail yesterday signed a £1.25 billion deal — the single biggest investment in new stock — for new 140mph tilting trains that will cut an hour from London to Scotland. It came as the company appointed Chris Green, a former senior British Rail figure, as its new chief executive.

Virgin will take on 53 eight-car and nine-car tilting trains that will be made in Europe but assembled by trainmaker Alstom in the West Midlands. Angel Trains, Britain's biggest train leasing company, will invest £52 million in the trains, the remaining £661 million going on maintenance.

The first train will be delivered in 2001, with complete delivery by September 2002.

#### Capital growth

Capital Shopping Centres, the retail landlord that owns Lakeside in Essex and Metro-Centre in the North East, said its out-of-town shopping units provided a safe haven from the turmoil on the high street over 1998 — allowing it to increase average rents by 12 per cent. Its net asset value rose 18 per cent, to 462p a share over 1998, and 80 per cent of the valuation uplift was driven by rental growth. Pre-tax profit was £8.1 million (£7.4 million), with investment income up 10.5 per cent to £107 million. The shares added 17p to 375p.

#### BWD advances

BWD Securities, the stockbroker, is to lift its total dividend by 60 per cent after reporting a 64 per cent rise in year-end pre-tax profits to £5.4 million. A final dividend of 8.5p, payable on April 9, takes the annual dividend to 12p, compared to 7.5p last year. Earnings per share have jumped to 19.2p from 11.1p. Group turnover rose 22 per cent to £22.3 million, of which just under half was fee income.

#### Drug approval

Globo Wellcome has received its first regulatory approval for Relenza, its new treatment for influenza. After approval by Sweden's Medical Products Agency, Relenza should quickly win the go-ahead to be marketed across Europe under the European Union's mutual recognition procedure. The new medicine, which is inhaled, was developed by Biota, an Australian biotechnology company.

## Confidence pick-up in CBI survey challenged

BY SAED SHAH

THE GLOOM hanging over manufacturing deepened yesterday with a survey showing falling orders and continuing weakness in business confidence in all regions.

Although the Confederation of British Industry quarterly regional trends survey showed fewer firms were pessimistic about prospects across the regions in January, compared with October, analysts said that the marginal increases in optimism seen in recent surveys are not justified by the economic outlook for industry.

Stephen Lewis, chief economist of Monument Derivatives, said that the City had been fooled by an apparent rise in confidence among manufacturers. "Financial markets are far too optimistic about UK output prospects," he said.

"The fact that the answers to confidence questions are slightly less negative than a few months ago still means that industry's outlook is negative."

Jonathan Loxnes, of HSBC Markets, said: "The slight pick-up in confidence over the last month or two, brought about by lower interest rates, is not backed up by an improvement in demand — it is

hope, rather than a response to what has happened in the economy. We could start to see this fade away again if home and overseas markets do not improve."

In the CBI survey, for January, the measure of confidence is -40 per cent, an improvement on the -58 per cent recorded in October. Wales was the most pessimistic region in January, with a reading of -61 per cent, followed by the West Midlands at -50 per cent. The most upbeat region was Northern Ireland, with a positive reading of 3 per cent; East Anglia was next, at -6 per cent.

The last time confidence nationally was positive in the survey was October 1997.

Mr Lewis forecast that manufac-

turing would contract by 2.5 per cent this year. The CBI survey showed that manufacturers in every region have responded to falling orders by cutting output and jobs.

Employment reductions are expected to gather pace in most regions, especially the North, the North West, the West Midlands and Scotland.

The CBI has called for interest rates to fall to 5 per cent "by the spring".

## Siemens accuses rivals for Internet acquisitions

SIEMENS, the German electronics group, yesterday accused its rivals of throwing away shareholders' money by acquiring overrated Internet and technology companies (Chris Ayres writes from Berlin).

Volkmar Jung, a senior executive of Siemens, which was unveiling its own strategy in the telecommunications sector, said: "There is a clear overrating of stock going on. Fantasy has become more important than reality, which is dangerous. We will not throw away our shareholders' money, but other companies are clearly doing that."

The comments were a clear reference to the \$20 billion purchase of Ascend Communications by Lucent Technologies, the former telecoms equipment division of AT&T. The companies, both based in the US, have benefited enormously from the burgeoning demand for Internet services over telephone wires. The deal valued Ascend at nearly 90 times 1998 post-tax earnings.

Herr Jung made the comments while attending a conference in Berlin to mark the company's increased focus on information and communication products.



Danny Rosenkranz, left, and Tony Isaac unveiled a profit fall

## Regulator attempts to avert MBO paralysis

ACCOUNTANTS were yesterday given a get-out clause by their regulator over the Year 2000 bug in an attempt to avert a paralysis in the management buyout market (Jason Nisbet writes).

The Auditing Practices Board issued a bulletin that states under what conditions accountants are able to sign Financial Assistance certificates, a requirement under the Companies Act that allows a leveraged buyout of a limited company. The certificates say that a company can meet its debts as they come due over the next year.

There had been worries that accountants would not be able to sign these certificates because of fears that the Year 2000 bug in computers could have such an adverse effect on companies' finances that it could force them into receivership.

The APB said accountants can obtain an opinion from the directors of the company being bought out that they can deal with the Year 2000 bug. So long as the accountants consider the director's report to be "not unreasonable", they can sign the Financial Assistance statement.

Commentary, page 23

## Broker funds warned

THE Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has issued its stiffest warning yet against the managers of broker funds (Caroline Merrill writes).

Hundreds of thousands of investors hold £1 billion in broker funds, which are operated by independent financial advisers. The funds have been criticised for poor performance and for double charging.

David Peffer, chief executive, said yesterday: "Investors should be aware that an IFA firm has a conflict of interest when recommending a broker fund which it manages. Existing investors should watch the performance carefully and ask themselves if they are getting value for the extra charges."

## Amvescap lifted by US market

PROFITS at Amvescap, the fund manager that took over GT Global last year, rose 30 per cent to £231.3 million last year (Caroline Merrill writes).

The increase in profits was generated by the big rise in US markets, where Amvescap holds the majority of its investment. Funds under management averaged \$232.9 billion (£145 billion) for the year, up \$26.2 billion. Part of the increase was generated by new business of \$4.6 billion.

The acquisition costs of GT Global were revealed to have come in at £4.6 million. The majority of this was severance pay to GT staff. In total, the integration of GT Global with Amvescap is expected to cost 600 jobs. The final dividend of 5p gives a total of 8p, up 14 per cent on last year.

## EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sale
Australia \$	2.62	2.45
Austria Sch	20.94	19.28
Belgium Fr	61.84	59.51
Canada \$	2.26	2.18
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8847	0.8132
Denmark Kr	11.35	10.47
Egypt £	1.74	1.62
Fiji £	0.17	0.22
France Fr	9.58	9.20
Germany DM	2.997	2.755
Greece Dr	1.25	1.18
Hong Kong \$	13.51	12.31
Iceland £	1.27	1.07
Indonesia Rp	17.985	16.995
Ireland £	1.0265	1.0265
Iceland Skr	7.04	6.98
Italy Lira	2.983	2.744
Japan Yen	2.069	1.875
Korea Wons	0.606	0.607
Netherlands Gld	3.385	3.090
New Zealand \$	1.179	1.158
Norway Kr	1.37	1.28
Portugal Esc	202.12	201.09
S Africa Rd	10.60	9.64
Spain Pes	2.025	2.018
Sweden Kr	13.70	12.69
Switzerland Fr	2.474	2.295
Turkey Lira	573.15	535.92
USA \$	1.400	1.300
Yugoslavia Dinar	0.179	0.178

Rates for small denominations only are supplied by Barclays Bank. Reference rates relate to mid-market exchange rates at close of trading yesterday.

## Profit woe takes toll of BOC share price

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

SHARES in BOC Group were marked down heavily yesterday as the industrial gas supplier unveiled a 9.2 per cent drop in pre-tax profits for the December quarter.

The profit fall to £84.9 million and comments from Danny Rosenkranz, chief executive, that BOC's gas business, which accounts for 82 per cent of the company's turnover, had suffered "increasingly difficult trading conditions", saw 8.5 per cent wiped from BOC's share price in early trading. A partial recovery saw the shares close down 5.7 per cent on the day at 814p.

Mr Rosenkranz said he was at a loss to explain the City's hostile reaction to the results at BOC, whose finance director is Tony Isaac, and believed the market had been well-informed of its trading position.

He said lower volumes had almost entirely offset by the reduced costs that had flowed from BOC's efficiency drive. Gas products generated a £94.4 million operating profit in the period, down from £101 million in the previous corresponding period.

Mr Rosenkranz said he believed gas volumes this year would be similar to 1998 and profit margins would be the same or slightly better because of cost-cutting.

The vacuum technology division registered a widely expected drop in operating profit from £1.2 million to £1.6 million.

Tempus, page 24

## Valuation dispute halts Abbot merger

THE £500 million merger of Abbot, the oilfield services company, and ProSafe, of Norway, has collapsed after disagreement on valuations. The merger, proposed last month, would have been on a 50-50 basis, despite Abbot's larger market capitalisation. The 1997 operating profits of both groups were similar. News that talks had failed lifted Abbot's shares 30p to 175p yesterday. Alasdair Locke, Abbot's chairman, said: "There's nothing wrong with ProSafe. We think they are excellent. It was a perfectly valid disagreement about price."

The proposed deal, seen as a sensible response to the mergers sweeping the oil and gas industry, would have created a big provider of offshore inspection services, mud-processing equipment and fabrication of offshore modules. ProSafe and Abbot each said that their 1998 results would be in line with market expectations, but some analysts said the failure of the deal after a month of talks leaves both vulnerable to takeover.

## Senior News Corp post

LACHLAN MURDOCH has been named senior executive vice-president of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*. He will assume responsibility for the company's US print operations, including HarperCollins, the publisher, the *New York Post* newspaper and *News America Marketing*, the newspaper insert service. Mr Murdoch, 27, son of Rupert Murdoch, News Corp's chairman and chief executive, remains chairman and chief executive of News Limited, its Australian arm.

## Amstrad in the black

AMSTRAD, the consumer electronics company, returned to profit in its first half, earning £4.1 million before tax in the six months to December 31, after a pre-tax loss of £900,000 in its previous first half. Sales rose to £455.5 million, from £30.9 million, lifted by strong demand for television and video products.

Amstrad began supplying digital satellite receivers to BSkyB in October. Earnings per share were 3.56p, against losses of 1.14p. The interim dividend rises to 0.3p, from 0.2p.

## Pub deals lined up

PUBS 'N' BARS, the AIM-listed pub minnow, is poised to acquire 37 pubs in two deals with a total value of about £15 million. The bigger deal will see the company acquire the 34-strong Real Leisure group, which owns 18 per cent of Pubs 'n' Bars and runs its four pubs under a management agreement. Pubs 'n' Bars is also thought to be acquiring three other pubs, taking its estate to 41. The company, capitalised at just over £2 million, is likely to fund the deals largely with paper.

## Pycraft suitor revealed

SHARES in Pycraft & Arnold, the chartered loss adjuster, fell back 3p to 65.6p yesterday as Fishers International, the financial services group, was flushed out as its suitor. Pycraft said on Monday that it had received a bid offer which had been made at a "modest premium" to Friday's closing price of 53.6p. Yesterday Fishers said that it was in "advanced discussions" to take over Pycraft, whose shares had leapt from their recent 12-month low of 49p.

## Slow recovery for oil

GLOBAL demand for oil is likely to recover even more slowly in 1999 than previously expected because of the spread of economic slowdown in developing countries, the International Energy Agency said yesterday. The IEA, the West's energy watchdog, has shaved its annual demand forecast, estimating that demand would rise by just one million barrels per day (bpd) or 1.4 per cent to 74.67 million bpd this year. Last month the IEA forecast 1999 demand at 75.05 million bpd.

## PowerGen buys stake

POWERGEN has paid £38 million for a 49.9 per cent stake in LG Energy, an independent power producer in South Korea owned by LG, the industrial conglomerate. LG Energy is spending £209 million building a gas-fired plant, which will become the country's first independent generating station. Ed Wallis, chairman of PowerGen, said that he expected South Korea to continue to be one of the world's fastest-growing energy markets despite its region's recent economic downturn.

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**ANA**

**T**his spring, British Airways will embark on a new staff training programme entitled "Putting People First Again". Admirable though this may be, it does rather beg the question of where BA has been putting people recently. Among both staff and customers there has been a suspicion that people were not featuring near the top of BA's priorities.

If you take pride in being the "price leader", a concept that airline operators interpret in the opposite way to grocers, then well motivated staff doing their best to look after passengers are essential. Otherwise price leadership just looks plain expensive.

Bob Ayling has been focusing on profit rather than people and there can be no doubt that the drastic cost-cutting he instigated was essential to BA's long-term survival. But if the new training programme represents a realisation that profits depend on people, there is a chance that BA could rebuild its reputation as the world's favourite airline, at least with shareholders and those passengers who do not object to paying premium prices for extra legroom and linen napery.

That there will continue to be a growing number of people prepared to do just that is crucial to Mr Ayling's strategy for the airline. Although BA has launched

Go to cater for price-conscious fliers, Mr Ayling is loath to see suits and briefcases climbing aboard. Companies may talk of cost cutting but he clearly does not expect them to take the exercise as seriously as BA has done, exporting jobs to India and cutting cabin crew wages.

It is unfortunate for him that the economic problems of the Far East have encouraged other airlines to wing into BA's more lucrative routes with business class seats on offer at discounted prices and, apparently, found some people prepared to shun the price leader. He is convinced that Asian and Latin American businesses will soon be taking to the air again and that the interlopers will fly away, leaving BA with its prices intact and its profits ready to swell.

It is a brave strategy and yesterday the stock market gave the slenderest indication that it may be beginning to believe in it. The third-quarter figures took the company into the red, but not as deeply as analysts had feared, and there would have been a profit but for the effect of currency move-

ments on an aircraft financing deal. The cost-cutting drive, unlike most airlines, is coming in ahead of schedule.

He may now be feeling that he can spend a bit of time on his other job, as supreme of the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. That will sadly prevent him from joining other BA executives in the sky when 2000 dawns, but he has every confidence they will have a safe flight.

#### MoD has to play Russian roulette

**B**ritish Aerospace profited mightily in the 1980s from being seen as a strategic national plc. Its business was so bound up with government that it could safely be entrusted with other strategic national assets, such as Rover and Royal Ord-

## Bad air day for Ayling



### COMMENTARY by our City Editor

positive cashflow had turned into a desperate need for investment. Selling Rover into the "safe" foreign hands of BMW made industrial sense and was the key to BAe's financial recovery. Leaving the UK without a home-owned motor manufacturer was just an unhappy side-effect. Still less can BAe be blamed for giving notice that it will sell or close any Royal Ordnance factories that have not been turned into property developments. The MoD has been using the world glut of ammunition to win a peace dividend for taxpayers by buying abroad. Orders for Royal Ordnance ammo have worse than halved. It is not viable.

In essence, however, BAe, like BMW, is now holding a gun to the Government's head. Give us orders or ask yourself if the plucky Belgians would supply material for another flare-up in

Ulster or intervention in Kosovo. The Longbridge saga will remind ministers that to be relaxed and civilised about foreign ownership of vital businesses leaves you impotent in your own house and wide open to blackmail. Europe's most powerful forces are no use without bullets.

#### What's bugging the accountants?

**W**hat is the difference between "reasonable" and "not unreasonable"? If you are an auditor, it could be £100,000 a year on professional indemnity insurance.

Yesterday's bulletin from the Auditing Practices Board offers a classic get-out clause for accountants fearful of the millennium bug. Accountants are concerned that the Financial Assistance statements they sign as an essential part of management buyouts, verifying that a company can meet its debts for the next 12 months, might look a little misleading if the bug hits the company and it goes bust in 2000. Aggressive in-

vestors might be tempted to start talking to lawyers about the accountants' negligence. With admirable foresight, the APB has rushed out a form of words to get around the possibility.

The auditors must ask the directors whether they think the bug will have a material impact on the company, its suppliers or its customers. If the response is no, then the auditors have to decide not whether this is "reasonable", because that would require them to spend a lot of time checking, but that it is "not unreasonable". The APB says this will require a "low level of inquiries", conducted from the perspective of an "informed layman".

Some may think an informed layman could often improve on the work of qualified auditors.

#### To the wall?

**S**TEPHEN WALLS has enjoyed a remarkable career. That it is not yet at an end is testimony to remarkable determination and very thick skin. Should he now get involved in a bid battle for Servisair, his opponents will find plenty of ammunition. Even his starting point, as a director of Servisair, raises questions over his reasons for rejecting Arvey's bid. But the biggest question must be whether it is wise to want a company with Walls as a director.

## Tie Rack ex-chief returns

**N**IGEL McGINLEY, who resigned as chief executive of Tie Rack 12 months ago, has returned to his old job to try to rescue the retailer from its worst-ever year (Fraser Nelson writes).

Roy Bishko, Tie Rack's founder and chairman, who is to step back from daily management, said: "I told him we needed him because we work well together. While he was here, we never made a loss."

The appointment came as Tie Rack said it was heading for a loss that "will not exceed £7.5 million" – against City forecasts of a £4 million loss. However, City investors were more taken by Mr McGinley's return, marking the shares up 3p to 224p.

## Reuters warns of slower progress

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

**R**EUTERS, the international news and information group, yesterday gave warning that lower revenue growth was likely this year, although savings from a reorganisation would also start to take effect.

Peter Job, chief executive, said that price increases introduced last month would be offset by a fall in new orders in the final quarter of last year as clients reacted to the crisis in emerging markets. The company also suffered a sharp setback in Russia and weak demand in Asia, with the exception of an encouraging performance in Japan.

Reuters announced a 7 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £580 million for the year to December 31. Profits were struck

something that has hung over goodwill, after a change in accounting practice, and reflected a £78 million fall in interest after the return of £1.5 billion of capital to shareholders. Before currency costs, the pre-tax profits were up by 2 per cent.

Revenue rose by 5 per cent, to £3.03 billion, and operating profit rose 2 per cent.

Mr Job said: "We turned to our advantage the many ups and downs of 1998, translating them into a strong underlying performance, with operating profit comparable rates up 14 per cent."

The chief executive also expressed increasing confidence in the company's ability to "address the millennium issue" –

## Stoves hit by cooker imports

## Primesight falls to SMG for £35m

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

**A**N INFLUX of fashionable Italian cookers from Smeg and Range Britannia has cut interim profits of Stoves, the Merseyside oven-maker, to their lowest for eight years (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said that the sustained strength of sterling is helping its European rivals to pitch themselves at much lower prices to Britain's richer householders.

Mr Job also spoke of Reuters' growing presence as an information provider on the Internet. He said: "We are getting 100 million page views a month off the main search engines."

A final dividend of 11p lifts the total to 14.4p, from 13p. The shares, which have had a strong rally since October, fell 33p to 833p.

Tempus, page 24

Pre-tax profits plunged to £404,000 in the half to November 30, from £2.83 million last time. Earnings per share were 1.2p (7.6p). The interim payout is held at 2.2p.

Stoves is now trying to cut production costs by up to 10 per cent so it can reduce the price tags of up to £2,000 on its cookers, and is to begin an advertising campaign.

**S**COTTISH MEDIA GROUP yesterday made its first foray south of the border with a recommended £35 million cash offer for Primesight, the billboard poster group. The deal, also Scottish Media's first move into outdoor advertising, follows last year's unsuccessful raid on VCI, the video publisher, for which it was outbid by Kingfisher. Primesight specialises in selling advertising space, mainly on illuminated 1.2m by 1.8m (six-sheet) panels. At the end of last year the company had 10 per cent of the six-sheet market in the UK with about 5,700 poster panels.

Andrew Flanagan, chief executive of SMG, which owns *The Herald* newspaper in Glasgow and the Scottish and Grampian ITV franchises said: "Primesight is a good fit

to our business and a useful addition to the group."

SMG intends to accelerate Primesight's expansion programme, with Scotland an obvious target.

SMG has been looking for opportunities to expand into the English media market for some time as further significant media acquisitions in Scotland are difficult because of monopoly problems.

The company is paying 320p a share for Primesight, which represents a premium of 23.6 per cent on the day that offer talks were announced.

SMG has irrevocable undertakings from 51 per cent of the shareholders including all the Primesight directors. There is also a partial share offer of 18.66 new SMG shares and £160 in cash in cash for every 100 Primesight shares.

## Profit dip at health care firm

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing home operator, yesterday blamed a shortage of nurses, and the need to employ more agency staff, for its poor results (Manus Costello writes).

John Lockhart, chairman, said rising staff costs meant that the outlook for the nursing home sector in the UK "remains difficult".

The company reported pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits for the six months ended November 30 of £6.6 million, down from £8.4 million. Turnover rose from £70 million to £79 million. Earnings were down to 7.2p a share (9.5p). The interim dividend of 2.85p per share was maintained.

Tempus, page 24

Under the Atlantic is a fibre optic cable that carries over 1 million calls at any one time. Whose cable? Whose do you think?



This year, Cable & Wireless' Gemini joint venture laid the final stretch of the newest and most advanced fibre-optic cable under the Atlantic Ocean.

At the moment, it handles over 1,000,000 calls at any one time.

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Speculators turn focus on packaging specialist

IF THE share price is anything to go by, a bid for David S Smith is virtually all wrapped-up.

The paper and packaging specialist was one of the best performers among the second-tierers with a rise of 9p, or almost 8 per cent, to 124p as 3.3 million shares changed hands. David S Smith is not a new-comer to speculation. In fact, it is one of the longest-running takeover sugars in the City and is certainly looking vulnerable to unwelcome attention.

The shares had collapsed from a peak of 252p last year as a strong pound and deteriorating market conditions took their toll. The price hit a 12-year low of 87p last month, at which point the speculators began piling in. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £398 million.

Share prices generally lost an early lead and were later hit by a sell-off in the financial futures market. However, prices closed above their worst levels despite another setback for the Dow Jones industrial average in early trading.

The FTSE 100 index ended 55p down at 5,779.9 while the FTSE 250 index closed 27.9 off at 5,177.5. More than a billion shares changed hands.

A favourable trading statement brought the buyers flocking back for SmithKline Beecham, up 33p to 831.5p, and spilled over into Glaxo Wellcome, 46p better at £19.43.

Utility companies also attracted their fair share of attention on yield considerations. Severn Trent was up 22p to 42.2p, United Utilities rose 13p to 803p, National Power grew 8p to 500p, and Thames Water put 14p to £11.13.

FKI clawed back an early loss to finish just 1p lighter at 173.4p, after briefly touching 169p. Takeover talk remains rife. First Leisure edged ahead 1p to 220p on renewed talk of a bid from Bass, down 31p to 818.4p.

The sell-off in Enterprise Oil, up 4p at 238.4p, has been overdone. That is the conclusion of Commerzbank Global Equities, which has moved from "hold" to "buy" and set a 12-month fair value target for the shares of 350p. Earlier this week, speculation intensified that Enterprise may be close to agreeing terms of a merger with rival Lasko, down 2p to 711.4p. But time may be running out. BG, down 4p to



Peter Job, chief executive of Reuters, the shares of which fell 33p to 833p in response to a 7 per cent drop in profits

350p, is said to have taken a shine to Lasko while its EMI may want Enterprise.

WestLB Panmure, the broker, pulled the rug from under Bank of Scotland, down 20p to 799p. It has cut its recommendation for the shares from "buy" to "trading sell".

There was a lukewarm response to full-year results from Reuters, down 33p to

833p. Profits, as expected, fell 7 per cent to £580 million with Peter Job, chief executive, blaming the downturn in emerging markets. Curiously enough, the shares have been a strong market this year with the group benefiting from its tag as an Internet play.

City Centre Restaurants continues to bump along the bottom with the price shading

up to 61.4p on the back of some cautious comments by Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker. The group rattled the City with a profits warning in January last year. The shares have fallen back from a peak of 162.4p in July, and the promise to sell-off its Deep Pan pizza division has yet to be delivered. CSFB has cut its profit forecast for 1998 from £19 million to £17.7 million.

Further consolidation of the drinks industry could be on the cards. Industry sources claim Alchemy, the venture capitalist, may be casting its eye over Inn Business, unchanged at 60p. Inn Business hit a low of 34p in October.

Ashfield Group has enjoyed a strong run in the wake of certain interim results but the price fell 6.4p to 180p as Merrill Lynch, the broker, downgraded its recommendation from "buy" to "accumulate".

News of the bid approach seen Reunion Mining climbing 23p to 75.4p. City gossip says the bidder is Anglo American, which wants to get its hands on the Skorpion nickel mine. Word is Anglo has already offered 120p a share.

Inner Workings rallied 3p to 22.4p after the company reassured shareholders it knew of no reason for the recent fall in the share price. The AIM-listed company has now benefited from a further cut in interest rates next month suffered a setback. It followed a stronger than expected survey from the British Retail Consortium.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 40p to £118.70 as 29,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 60p to £150.65. By contrast, Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was left 4p adrift at £107.50.

**NEW YORK:** Wall Street sagged as worries about overpriced shares triggered fresh selling. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 78.52 points to 9,212.59.

LITIGATION can prove stressful for City investors and so it proved yesterday in the High Court.

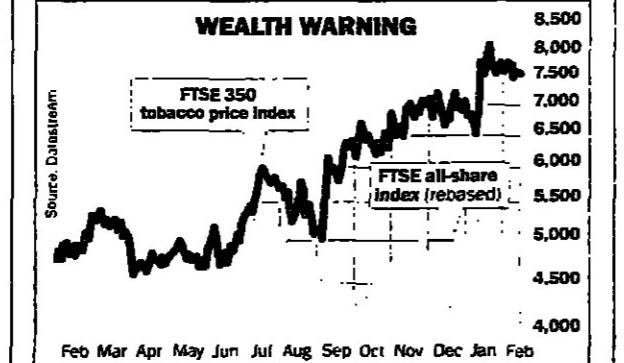
Eight sample smoking and health claims were rejected. It was ruled that the lawsuits had begun after the time permitted by law.

The tobacco companies breathed a sigh of relief, with Gallaher put on 60p to 631p, while Imperial and Imperial Tobacco sported a rise of 24p to 711.4p.

BAT is no stranger to litigation over cancer claims. It has been fighting them in the US, along with other US tobacco producers, for years.

Only last year, the US tobacco producers agreed to pay Medicaid hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation.

Litigation in this country is not as advanced as in the US. Brokers say this case may not be the end of the matter, but caution that the fight could drag on for years to come before any settlement, if any, is agreed.



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's the air

To technologists, e-commerce means buying the odd CD or book online as a novelty. It is, needless to say, much more than this. The exponential growth of e-commerce — digital economy gives a better idea of the scale of the thing — is tearing up the rules of business and economics. Think of life before and after electricity and you get some idea of the enormity of the change the Internet is bringing.

Luddites are easily bored by all the superlatives inspired by the Internet, but the numbers are genuinely mind-boggling. At the World Economic Forum, which wrapped up in Davos last week, the Internet, e-commerce, etc. eclipsed all other subjects for discussion. It was understandably difficult to focus on thoughts of the crisis of capitalism when capitalism was being given an injection of rocket fuel by events in cyberspace.

Quite sane (if very excitable) people were saying that about 10 per cent to 15 per cent of world retail sales will be online in a decade. Business-to-business e-commerce

was an even hotter topic. Forrester Research of Cambridge, Massachusetts, estimates that businesses bought and sold \$43 billion worth of goods over the Internet last year, against the \$8 billion spent by consumers.

In Davos there were estimates that business-to-business trade would be worth \$340 billion in three years. One executive, already buying and selling steel on the Internet, suggested that this was already looking too modest. If a good proportion of this \$70 billion-a-year market goes online — likely, given the huge cost savings in terms of sales forces, brokers and the foreign travel costs of physically scouring the world for the best prices — the \$340 billion figure could be met sooner than anyone can imagine.

Steel is but one old-fashioned industry that is using the new technology. Industry exchanges are popping up all over the Internet, linking buyers and sellers by providing timely and trustworthy, one hopes, market information. Metalsite is an online exchange for flat-rolled steel, the National Transportation Exchange ([npe.net](http://npe.net)) helps shippers to find available capacity on trucks and ranks shipment requests in order of potential profitability.

Eric Schonfeld of Fortune magazine believes that VerticalNet, which provides sites for 33 industries, and Chemdex, which matches buyers and sellers of laboratory chemicals, could both go public this year. These offerings could be an interesting show in person, he says, but the real spectacle will be "watching these high-tech go-betweens drag the industrial economy onto the Net".

All of this has astonishing implications. No large company or in-

dustry sector will remain untouched by digital commerce. Retailers will inevitably find that they cannot compete on cost. Some of their business will go online. What remains will have to offer the shopper incentives to turn up in person. Bookstores will become coffee houses and meeting places.

The prospect of a huge consumer marketplace on the Internet is already engineering huge changes. Yesterday's story in *The Times* that Bill Gross, the entrepreneur, is offering to give away \$1,000 PCs in return for the right to display advertising on their screens is just a start. In two or three years the humble PC is expected to be a minority route to accessing the Internet, with the television and telephone direct taking over.

In any case, money will not be made primarily from hardware or software. One of the obvious ways for Internet service providers to go is to move into the database business. They will be able to build up astonishingly detailed profiles of customers: their location, their likes, their dislikes, their spending patterns and incomes. Privacy on the Net is a huge issue and until regulators come up with some kind of consensus, information for marketing purposes will be hot property.

This is only a byte-sized example

of a wave of revolutionary change going on that is barely understood by most of us and has barely been tackled by governments. They face problems of privacy law and of regulation of criminal activity (a man from Interpol turned up at a session on regulating cyberspace in Davos). Far more fundamental than these, however, is the question of taxation. If more and more commerce is going online and governments fail to capture the tax revenue from cyberspace that did in earthly tax districts, they are going to find large and permanent holes in their tax revenues.

It is assumed that even slimmed down state sectors of the future are still going to be paying for such things as education, healthcare and police, but will they be able to afford it without more stringent and effective taxing of e-commerce? The US Administration

is working intensively on how to tax cyberspace, which is not easy for the simple reason that nobody is sure where, in earth terms, a transaction has occurred. One suggestion would be to impose a blanket international tax on bytes going through the Internet service providers and then somehow share the revenues between national governments.

If Barings' management found it difficult to control its derivatives traders because it didn't understand what they were up to, how much more of an unequal struggle will it be between technocrats from the Inland Revenue and the tech-no-wizards driving the growth of the Internet?

## Online revolution tears up rulebook



# Counterfeiter poised to cash in on arrival of the euro

**Urgent action is required to safeguard Europe's new currency, says Jeff Stuart**

The euro has been successfully launched and forecasts are that it will become a "reserve" currency alongside the US dollar. This contains the seeds of a serious problem which should be addressed with some urgency; it will be heavily counterfeited.

There is a certain reason for being so certain of this. First, of course, there is always a lot of counterfeiting about. If you doubt that, just try to spend a £50 note. Even £20 notes are regularly checked, by machines of varying adequacy, in stores, boutiques and bars.

Most counterfeited is the dollar, for obvious reasons: it is conveniently negotiable almost anywhere, it has high denominations and it is a surprisingly simple, two-colour note.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington has only recently upgraded its integral security. While most countries in this century opted to improve the security quality of their banknotes, the US has preferred to spend its money on the FBI. Anti-counterfeiting has always been one of the FBI's main duties. Inside the US, it claims great success. Outside, it is entirely another matter.

There are about 80 billion banknotes produced each year for the 180 currency issuing authorities in 124 countries. Of these, 51 have their own state printing works. Banknotes for the other 135 are produced by 14 privately owned companies. Surprisingly, some of the poorest countries in the world have some of the finest banknotes. Insecure governments can be among the easiest prey to sales pressure from the private companies.

Concern about the security of banknotes, though, is sound sense. After all, they are just scraps of paper. One of the basic economics textbooks (*Principles of Economics*) points out that paper money could be seen as a "gigantic confidence trick". Quite so, but as long as people believe in those little "scraps of paper" it all works. That is why counterfeiting is

deadly. It undermines the confidence in the bits of paper. In 1991, President Mobutu in Zaire introduced a new high-denomination note to pay his soldiers. However, it was roundly mocked among the soldiers that it was counterfeit currency printed in South America. They went on the rampage, closed down Kinshasa for three days and more than 300 people died. People have to believe in the bits of paper.

Because it is so important to sustain this belief, governments, banks and security forces are notoriously reticent about counterfeiting. From official documents you would think it hardly went on. So why the difficulties spending some notes? Why all the testing machines next to the till?

The euro will undoubtedly be designed to be one of the most secure currencies in the world. Most of the 11 participating countries have their own state printing works, or an excellent private company, in their territory. So why should it be so vulnerable to counterfeiting? The answer lies in a small document produced by a little-known, non-profit organisation based in Zurich, The Association Internationale des Imprimeurs Fiduciaires (AIF). It was founded by the privately owned banknote printers. All 14 such printers in Europe, North America, Canada and South America are members.

The permanent Secretariat organises regular conferences to consider all aspects of security printing. Guest speakers from Interpol, central banks, the FBI and various other organisations attend. Collectively, the companies themselves represent the greatest concentration of security printing expertise in the world.

The AIF publishes very little, apart from comprehensive internal minutes, papers, etc. But a few years ago it did publish a prestigious small booklet entitled *The Production of Security Documents*. It was an extremely carefully worded affair, with its obsession with secrecy and confidentiality, agonised



Forger's dream: it will take euroland citizens a long time to gain an instinctive feel for the notes

about even producing. It is an extract from this which is directly relevant to the concerns expressed about the euro and counterfeiting.

It reads: "The main aim for all those concerned with the production of security documents is to present to the would-be counterfeiter or forger a number of obstacles to defeat his intentions while at the same time affording the man in the street a simple means of establishing the genuineness of the documents without the aid of technical apparatus."

The struggle to find the "simple means" has intensified as criminals have gained access to new technology, six-colour photocopiers, improved photographic equipment, computer

graphics and more. Inexorably, the need to rely on "the aid of technical apparatus" has become obvious.

There are no technical means of validating banknotes on the spot. Any counterfeiter worth his salt will produce something to get past the little machines next to the till.

**A**ll the security devices on even the best banknotes can be effectively replicated by commonly available printing and repro machinery. Even holograms are widely available now and can be copied by hot-foil stamping, a commonplace process in the packaging industry.

The banks do have machin-

ery capable of validation, but that is a case of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. By the time it gets to the bank, the note has already been used.

So the real bulwark against counterfeiting is "the man in the street". Millions of them, who instinctively know in most cases, though they may not be able to explain exactly why, that a note is not right.

Something about the feel, the colour, the curl, or even the smell. These permanent "validators" will come to know their banknotes over a period of years and have watched them evolve as extra security features have been added to them. Few countries totally change all their currency in

one hit. The issuing authorities have to depend on that.

The euro will not have that advantage. It will be completely unfamiliar to 300 million people. It is a pan-national construct, with many of the symbols not easily recognised. The Governments involved will be anxious that it is accepted unquestioningly and used immediately. No one will want to admit to anything untoward to undermine it. It will take the citizens of euroland a year or two before they develop that instinctive feel for the notes.

That is a counterfeiter's heaven. Criminals in Turkey, Russia, Europe, Hong Kong and Latin America are probably already preparing for the launch. Talks of bringing forward from 2002 to 2000 render the problem pressing. Even if it remains at the later date there is still not much time.

**B**ut what can be done? First, tell the general public the whole story of the security built into the notes. Educate them. Use newspapers, magazines and television to point out what these features are.

The old worry that this is too much of a risk because it "informs" counterfeeters is untenable: counterfeitors will scrutinise the notes under microscopes and light sources to discover all they need to know, if they have not already got the information from their own sources.

The second measure is for the EU to recognise the need for a European "FBI". The obvious step would be an expansion of Interpol. To prevent a large problem in the first few years, a dedicated, well-equipped organisation needs to be in place before launch.

Thirdly, but probably politically unacceptable, severely limit the number of factories where the notes are produced, ideally to one location. Having printing sites all over Europe is a security nightmare.

Whether this all has to be done in three years, or one if the launch is brought forward, someone should be doing something now.

**J**eff Stuart is former managing director of Harrison & Sons, the security printer which is now part of De La Rue.

## Sick joke

A FEW months back, in possibly the most ill-conceived marketing stunt ever, Sony sent out thousands of letters purporting to be the results of urgent medical tests and informing the recipient that these had detected "early stages of a progressive condition".

The spoof "results" were actually plugging the company's computer games. Predictably, a large number were sent to people who really were awaiting the results of cancer screening and other serious medical tests and caused immense distress.

Sony even ignored warnings from

the Committee of Advertising Practice not to send the letters out. I was told at the time that the matter was under investigation by the Advertising Standards Authority and action would be taken.

The ASA today publishes its ruling. No fine, not possible, and no severe condemnation — instead Sony is merely told the letters were "unsatisfactory". An ASA spokesman tells me: "The fact that they have apologised goes a long way as far as we're concerned." So that's all right then.

**L**eaders is a glossy management magazine, a sort of corporate Hello! And never underestimate the curse of Hello!, the tendency of its interviewees to come unstuck subsequently. So the latest issue has a heavy hitter on the front, and lots inside about how he is "going places this year". Anyone tempted to feature next time might note that it is Bernd Fischerrieder, recently ejected as chief executive of BMW.

## On the menu

AN APPEAL to all readers, and perhaps a free lunch. Simpson's-in-the-Strand is being refurbished at a cost of £1.7 million, and the management is installing a historical archive there.



So far they have found lots of old documents, pictures and so on, but there is a shortage of menus.

The oldest anyone can find is from 1913, but there must be others stashed away in old trunks or collections of memorabilia. I have negotiated with Simpson's an exclusive deal; any of you with menus predating this will get lunch there in exchange.

Incidentally, I hear that ever since Simpson's of Piccadilly, the department store, closed its doors for the last time, Simpson's — no relation, ever — has received a couple of calls a day asking if it is still trading.

**R**oom & board

THE uncertainty surrounding Electra Investment Trust has delayed the retirement of its chairman, Michael

Stoddart. The trust was forced to report an unsolicited approach from Stoddart a couple of weeks ago, and Stoddart will now stick around until the situation is resolved.

The approach has also caused some problems for the forthcoming annual meeting, which should have been followed by Stoddart's retirement. Electra had hired a small suite at the Howard Hotel, just big enough to accommodate the board, advisers and the handful of shareholders expected. Anyone who turns up there will now be redirected up the road to rather larger premises at the Savoy.

ANY change in ownership can be unsettling for the workforce, admits Gary Ashworth, who built up his recruitment business Abacus by means of frequent acquisitions and then sold it last year. You have to be careful how you announce the news.

He tells *Real Business* what he believes to be best practice. "The owner simply faced the whole company and said, 'I've sold the business. I then stood up and said, 'Hi, I'm your new boss.'

## Core business

THERE is life after Two Dogs for Richard Purdy, the former chairman of Merrydown, who left the company after a boardroom shake-out last summer. He has reverted to an earlier, gentler calling and is making and selling fruit wines and apple juice from

the company's former off-licence at its home town of Horam, East Sussex.

Purdy, who a few years ago returned as chairman of James Purdy & Sons, the gunmaker, even though his family sold the business in 1946, has set up his own company, the aptly named Both Barrels, to market elderberry and other wines and meads.

"I used to have a film about Merrydown fruit wines which I took around Women's Institutes and town guilds," Purdy recalls. "Then, the image was all Arsenic and Old Lace. Thirty five years on, people are far more adventurous."

**MARTIN WALLER**

[cit.diary@the-times.co.uk](mailto:cit.diary@the-times.co.uk)



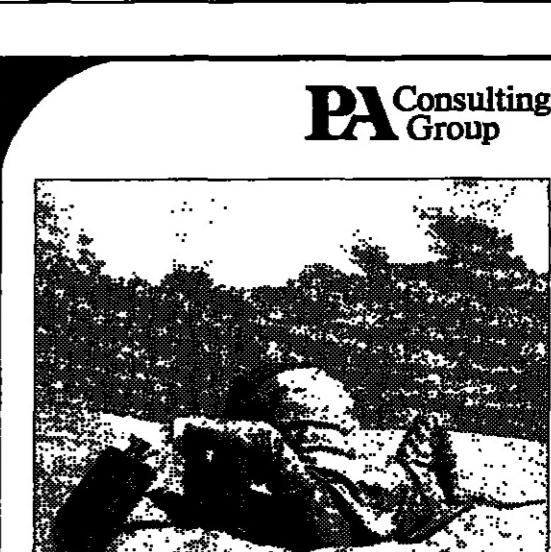
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Tony Dawe introduces a two-page report on the drive to cut down on fuel consumption by making our homes more cost-effective

# Why bills are going through the roof

**W**ith snow falling across much of Britain this week, the nation's fuel bills will be rising as we all strive to keep warm.

Turning up the central heating, putting more coal on the fire and running fan heaters in the colder parts of the home are all essential as the temperature drops below zero outside.

Yet few people realise that they can balance this inevitable increase in their bills with a few economy measures.

Households in Britain are estimated to waste £6.5 billion every year on energy, equivalent to £278 for each household or 100 times the cost of combating the current cold snap. The estimate comes from the Energy Savings Trust, set up by the Government to promote energy efficiency. Its research also found that most householders are ignorant about the savings they can achieve.

The trust is now trying to get the message across with a series of leaflets, an energy efficiency hotline and website and free do-it-yourself home energy checks. Saving energy in the home will also form part of a new £7 million campaign by the Environment Department.

Eoin Lees, the trust's chief executive, says: "By becoming more energy-efficient, the average household can reduce fuel bills by up to 40 per cent. Our initiative has been created to help to build awareness of the financial and environmental benefits of being wise with energy around the home."

Alan Meale, the Energy Efficiency Minister, believes that simple economies around the home will help the whole environment. "If you burn energy when you don't need to and run water and waste it, you are not only building up extra bills but contributing to the demise of our society," he says.

"We must get the message across that saving energy is common sense, good business practice and costs you less."



Meale new initiative

"With the help of manufacturers, we have reduced the wattage used by appliances on standby for a day from ten to six," Mr Meale says. "With further co-operation and the help of the public, we aim to get the figure down to a single watt."

For more significant savings, the trust reports that an investment of between £250 and £500 could reduce householders' energy bills by up to a quarter. Grants of up to £400 are available.

Condensing boilers, for example, are the most efficient in producing warmth and hot water as they convert an average 85 per cent of fuel into heat. They cost £300 more than an ordinary boiler but an Energy Efficiency grant of £200 will help to reduce the investment, which should save more than £100 a year in fuel bills.

Cavity wall insulation costs an average £550 but a £200 grant is also available to help with the cost of installing it, a measure which the trust claims cuts heat loss by up to 60 per cent and saves a third of fuel costs.

Building societies have discovered that helping borrowers to save money on fuel bills has become a way of attracting business. The Woolwich offers an energy saver mortgage which includes a package of ef-

ficient domestic appliances and energy-saving lightbulbs, while Norwich & Peterborough's green mortgage includes a 1 per cent discount for two years and £1,000 cashback towards home improvements.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme grants are also available to people on benefit and have helped to improve nearly three million homes since they were introduced in 1991. "Each household helped has seen its fuel costs reduced by an average of £45 a year, with greater savings for those with cavity wall or loft insulation installed," Mr Meale says.

The minister is concerned, however, that the scheme is not reaching the poorest members of society who cannot afford to heat their homes properly let alone afford efficiency measures, and has launched a new initiative to help them.

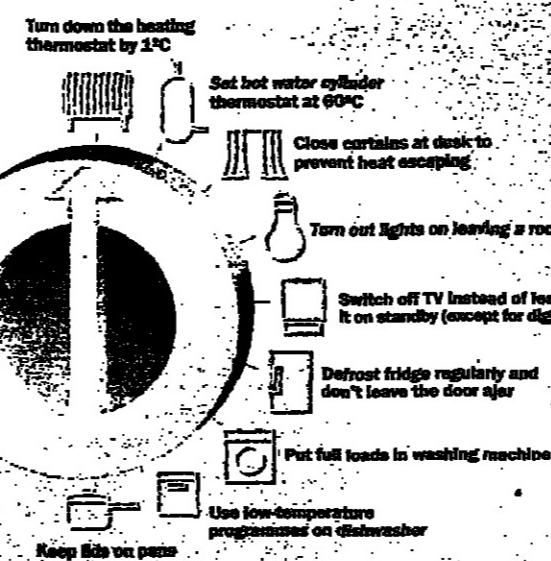
"People in the poverty trap burn a lot of fuel because they want to get warm quickly but much of the heat escapes through the roof," he says.

"They do not have the choices which other people have. They buy second-hand white goods, which are the least efficient."

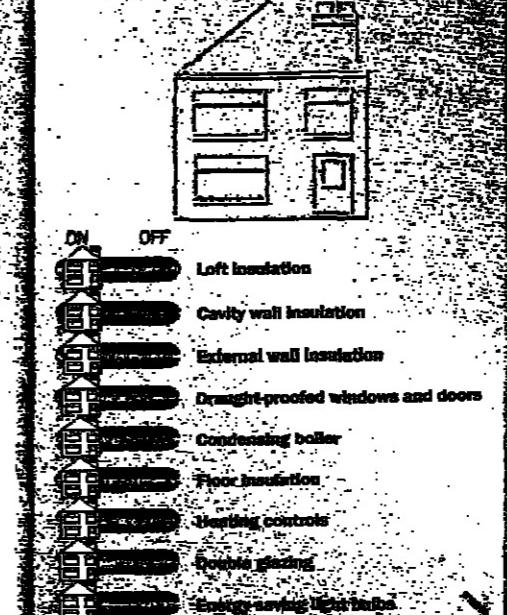
A s MP for Mansfield in the heart of the Nottinghamshire coalfield, Mr Meale knows how difficult it is to get the efficiency message across. "Many constituents were used to free coal and liked having a fire in the grate all day and feeding the boiler so that could get hot water in the morning," he says. "Now that they are on gas and electricity, they expect the same heat but haven't learnt to use it economically."

Mr Meale regrets that his ministerial lifestyle hardly aids the energy campaign, as he travels by car to keep to a tight timetable. He does his bit at home, however, by building a compost heap with vegetable and garden waste and planting trees to supplement oxygen in the atmosphere.

## FREE WAYS OF SAVING ENERGY



## THE ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOME



Now green PCs are really cool

**T**he rapid growth in demand for the latest technology has made the energy used by personal computers and other office equipment one of the fastest-growing sources of electricity consumption in businesses and homes.

It accounts for more than 7 per cent of the electricity used in offices in America, yet much of it is wasted because equipment sits idle for long periods throughout the day as well as overnight and at weekends.

To tackle this problem, the US Environmental Protection Agency launched the Energy Star programme in partnership with manufacturers so that consumers could identify energy-efficient products. The mark has become a globally recognised seal of approval for environmentally aware hardware and now appears on products such as monitors, printers and scanners.

Most of the world's largest PC manufacturers are well aware of the financial as well as environmental benefits of supplying "green" computers.

IBM has a dedicated Engineering Centre for Environmentally Conscious Products and is discussing ways in which to market more aggressively the environmental aspect of their products to consumers. Compaq, Gateway and most other recognised PC brands are Energy Star partners.

Such computers still vary enormously in their power consumption: some use as little as 1.5 watts in "sleep" mode, while others are close to the 30-watt limit. Laptops are the most energy-efficient because they have to survive for long periods using only batteries.

Most new desktop computers now have some built-in power-saving measures.

Systems that have been upgraded to include large numbers of components consume the most power. Many conventional PCs have power supplies rated at more than 250 watts and these waste more energy "ticking over" than less powerful ones. As most home PCs are seldom upgraded, they could happily run on a power supply of half the size.

TONY DAWE

LINTON DAWE

## Save and help the world

Using energy more efficiently has a beneficial effect on global warming as well as our wallets

about other ways of saving energy and of buying efficient products."

Stroll around the home tonight and identify ten simple measures which cost nothing but could

start an energy-saving habit that could save more than £100 a year.

Just drawing the curtains so the heat doesn't escape through the windows can save £15 a year in the average three-bedroom semi-detached house.

Turning out lights and switching off the television instead of leaving it on standby (unless it is a digital TV) are obvious ways of saving a few pounds. Adjusting the heating will achieve more substantial savings.

Turn down the central heating thermostat by 1°C and the fuel bill will be reduced by between £15 and £30 a year. Set the hot-water cylinder thermostat at 60°C.

which is quite adequate for bathing and washing, and a similar saving will be achieved. Just making sure the hot water is not running before the plug is put in the basin will save pounds.

It is the kitchen, however, which offers the greatest opportunity for cutting energy costs. Put just enough water for your needs in the kettle instead of filling it to the brim; choose the correct size pan for the food and cooker and keep lids on while cooking

and, if you have a dishwasher, run it on a low-temperature programme. The refrigerator can be a real money waster. If you place it next to a cooker or boiler, it will have to work harder.

Don't leave the fridge door

open for longer than necessary and defrost it regularly to keep it running efficiently.

Both teams on a recent edi-

• It has never been easier to save money on fuel bills •

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## Court of Appeal

Law Report February 10 1999

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

## Court of Appeal

**Copyright dispute over Dutch building**

Pearce v Ove Arup Partnership Ltd and Others  
Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice May  
(Judgment January 21)

An English court was not required to refuse to entertain a claim in respect of alleged infringements of Dutch copyright on the basis that the infringements were not actionable torts under English law.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an application by Gareth Pearce to adduce further evidence before their Lordships including a portfolio of 18 pairs of drawings, each pair with part of the Docklands drawings overlaid with a transparency of an allegedly comparable part of the Kinsale drawings.

That application, subject to one gloss, would be refused as the evidence was, or could readily have been, available for the hearing before Mr Justice Lloyd (Times March 17, 1997; [1997] Ch 29).

Mr Pearce had complained of breaches of what he claimed to be his copyright as author of drawings created when an architectural student for a town hall in Docklands which was never built.

He claimed that Mr Rem Koohas, an architect, and the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, of which he was director, took copies of his drawings and used them in substantial part in designing the Kinsale in Rotterdam. Ove Arup Partnership Ltd was the civil engineering firm retained for construction of the Kinsale, owned by the city of Rotterdam.

The judge decided to strike out all allegations of infringement of Dutch copyright on the ground that they were not justiciable under English law, but accepted that on the facts alleged the claim was bound to fail and struck out both his whole claim against Ove Arup, Mr Koohas, Office for Metropolitan Architecture and the city of Rotterdam. Mr Pearce appealed.

Mr Koohas, OMA and Rotterdam by respondents' notice, contend that the judge's order should be affirmed on the additional ground that the alleged infringements of Dutch copyright against them were not actionable torts under English law.

Miss Julia Clark for Mr Pearce; Ms Heather Lawrence for the first defendant; Mr Christopher Floyd, QC and Mr Richard Habon for the second to four defendants.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, giving the judgment of the court, said that the first issue was abuse of process. In striking out the plaintiff's

claim on the basis that it was speculative, the judge in essence decided that the claim was bound to fail because no court could ever be persuaded to draw the necessary inference that copies had been made.

The plaintiff applied to adduce further evidence before their Lordships including a portfolio of 18 pairs of drawings, each pair with part of the Docklands drawings overlaid with a transparency of an allegedly comparable part of the Kinsale drawings.

That application, subject to one gloss, would be refused as the evidence was, or could readily have been, available for the hearing before Mr Justice Lloyd.

The gloss was that their Lordships considered Mr Pearce's portfolio of drawings was receivable, not as additional evidence, but as an explanation of counsel's submissions on his behalf for which leave was not granted.

When the wrong of which he complained had been committed outside England, he had also to establish that the English court, applying its own conflict of laws rules, would regard his complaint as giving rise to a cause of action to which it would recognise and entertain.

The judge accepted that, but for the Brussels Convention, an action in the English court which was founded on an alleged breach of Dutch copyright law had to be brought within the peculiar province and competence of the English court.

Nevertheless, it was submitted that jurisdiction was one thing; justiciability or actionable another. It was not enough for the plaintiff to establish that he could bring proceedings against the defendants in the English court.

It was necessary to understand what the distinction between local and transitory actions was. From an analysis of the reasoning in the *Mozambique* case it was clear that the question whether the English courts should entertain an action for trespass to foreign land was treated as one of justiciable.

The English court should not claim jurisdiction to adjudicate on matters which, under generally accepted principles of private international law, were within the peculiar province and competence of another state.

Their Lordships were satisfied that, at least in relation to land situated within a contracting state, there was no room for any latitude for the rule in the *Mozambique* case. The questions addressed in that case were now as a matter of English private international law, determined by section 20 of the 1982 Act giving effect to the accession of the UK to the Brussels Convention.

*Entitlement of the Mozambique* rule to intellectual property.

Their Lordships considered of limited assistance the Australian cases of *Potter v Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd* ([1906] 3 CLR 470) and *Norbert Steinhardt and Son Ltd v Meths* ([1960] 1 ICR 257).

Of the English cases, their Lordships found that the respondents could gain no assistance from *Def Lepp Music v Stuart-Brown* ([1986] RPC 273).

*Tyburn* was the only decision that could be said to provide direct support for the proposition that a claim for breach, outside England, of a foreign intellectual property right could not be entertained by

the English court, as it was regarded as overridden by the Convention in such a case and so inapplicable.

Solicitors: Landau & Cohen; Berymans Lace Mawer; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

**Effect of matrimonial award on insolvency deal**

In re M (a debtor) (488-IO-1996)  
Before Sir John Vinerot  
(Judgment November 12)

A wife who had received a lump sum under an order in ancillary relief proceedings was bound to accept a dividend under an individual voluntary arrangement. However, in order to prevent unfair prejudice to the wife, her special position as a creditor within section 28(5) of the Insolvency Act 1986 had to be recognised.

Sir John Vinerot so held, sitting as an additional judge of the Chan-

cery Division, when allowing an appeal by P against Mr Registrar Balister's refusal to allow an extension of time for making an application under section 262 of the 1986 Act. In making her application under section 262, P had sought relief from an individual voluntary arrangement entered into by the M, the respondent.

Section 28 provides: "(S) Discharge [from] bankruptcy debts does not ... release the bankrupt from any debt which ... (b) arises from any order made in family proceedings." P's claim was by then £24,962.

Miss Anchored Start for the ap-

pealant; Ms Marcia Shekherdman for the respondent.

HIS LORDSHIP said that P and M were married in 1990. In about 1995, P commenced divorce proceedings and received an order by way of ancillary relief that M should transfer his interest in the matrimonial home to appellant and pay her the sum of £20,000.

M subsequently applied for an interim order under sections 252 and 253 of the 1986 Act so that an individual voluntary arrangement could be considered by his creditors. P's claim was by then £24,962.

His Lordship said that the first question he had to address was whether P was bound by the individual voluntary arrangement in respect of the lump sum payable by the respondent.

On March 13, 1998, Mr Registrar Balister refused to allow P's application, inter alia, for an extension of time for making an application under section 262 of the 1986 Act. It was from that decision, that P appealed.

His Lordship said that the first question he had to address was whether P was bound by the individual voluntary arrangement in respect of the lump sum payable by the respondent.

On the question of whether P had been unfairly prejudiced, by the individual voluntary arrangement for the purposes of section 262, his Lordship said that P had the right under section 26(5) of the 1986 Act, not enjoyed by other creditors, to assert her claim to a matrimonial debt, notwithstanding the release of debts following bankruptcy. To the extent that she was compelled by the terms of the voluntary arrangement to accept a dividend in satisfaction of the matrimonial debt, that right was overridden and so she was thereby unfairly prejudiced.

In his Lordship's judgment, the terms of an independent voluntary arrangement would unfairly prejudice a creditor such as P unless her special position was recognised or unless the other creditors were in agreement.

His Lordship considered whether P had an alternative remedy. P was claiming the bona fide of the arrangement accordingly it was considered that she could present a bankruptcy petition under sections 264(1)(b) and 276(4)(b).

Notwithstanding the dictum of Mr Justice Chadwick in *Russell v Russell* (unreported July 16, 1998) his Lordship held that P had no financial interest in presenting a petition and it would have no prospect of success.

Accordingly, in so far as P relied on sections 264(1) and 276(4), the proper course for challenging the bona fide of the arrangement lay in rule 5.17(5) of the Insolvency Rules 1986 No 1925.

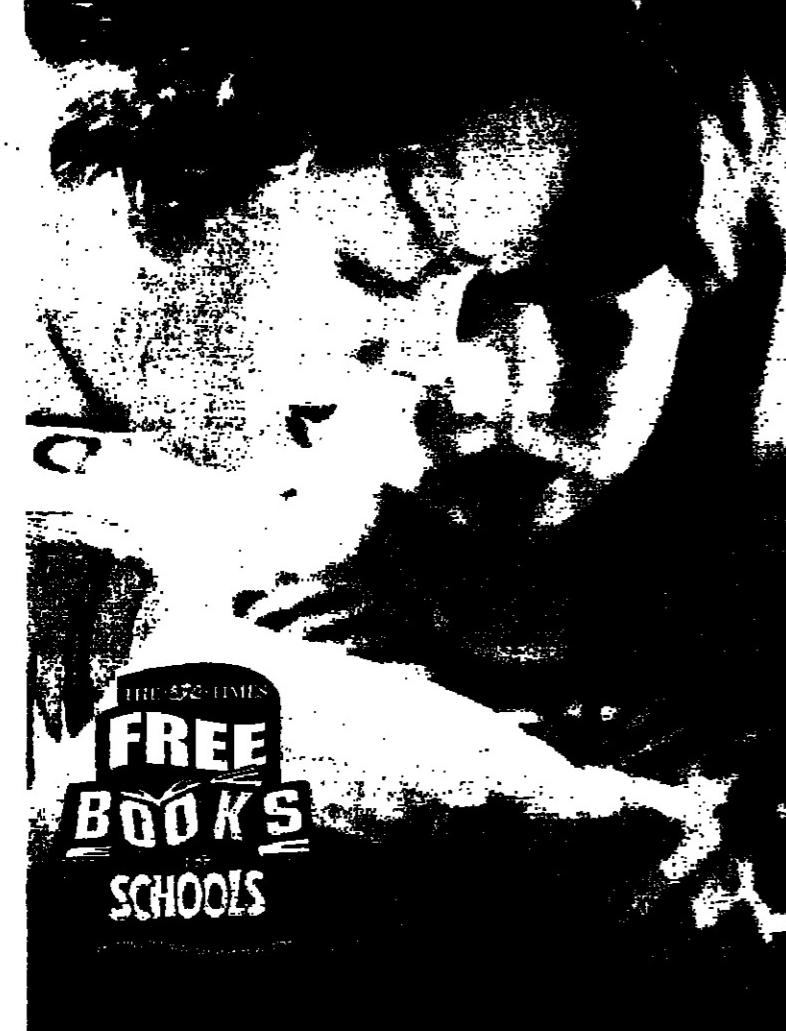
Solicitors: Lawrence Tuckett, Bristol; L. Bingham & Co.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Law Report February 10 1999

Non-justiciable under the *Mozambique* rule.

On its face, their Lordships found that the rule in the *Mozambique* case did not provide self-evident support for the proposition that a claim for breach of a foreign statutory intellectual property right could not be entertained by an English court.

Their Lordships could derive little or no assistance on the question whether an action for alleged infringement of a foreign copyright by acts done outside the UK, in a case where, as here, the existence and validity of the rights was not in issue, was justiciable in an English court; and no assistance from that case where the question arose in the context of acts done in a contracting state.

Their Lordships also rejected the submission that by article 50(1) of the Berne Convention the provisions of the Brussels Convention were excluded from application to copyright infringement.

Requirement of double-actionability.

The respondents relied on the rule derived from *Phillips v Eyre and Boys v Chapman* ([1971] AC 350) for the rule and its exception see *Dick and Morris on Conflict of Laws* (2nd edition 1993) p1457.

Their Lordships found that the case was not one in which the claim was in respect of some wrong which was conceptually unknown in English law. It was a case where, if the claim was justiciable at all, the exception to the double-actionability rule enabled an English court to apply Dutch law; and the English court ought to do so.

Their Lordships found that the case was not one in which the claim was in respect of some wrong which was conceptually unknown in English law. It was a case where, if the claim was justiciable at all, the exception to the double-actionability rule enabled an English court to apply Dutch law; and the English court ought to do so.

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Their Lordships were satisfied that the *Mozambique* rule did not require the English court to refuse to entertain a claim in respect of the alleged infringement of Dutch copyright; and that, in those circumstances, the court was not required by the first limb of the double-actionability rule to hold that the claim was bound to fail because the acts done in Holland could not amount to an infringement of UK copyright.

It followed that their Lordships were not persuaded that the judge's order should be affirmed on the alternative ground in the respondents' notice.

Solicitors: Landau & Cohen; Berymans Lace Mawer; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

**Rate of payment of performance royalties**

Performing Rights Society v Boizot

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Sedley

Judgment February 2

A hotel and restaurant with a licence to perform music from the repertoire of the Performing Rights Society was entitled to pay royalties under that licence calculated at 4 per cent of the cost of the performances. The rate was calculated by reference to expenditure in respect of the provision of any music by copyright music played.

The Court of Appeal held, dismissing the appeal of the defendant, that the society was a licensing body as defined by section 16 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, which administered the performing rights in musical works on behalf of its members and represented most foreign music copy-right owners.

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## GALLERIES

**IS THIS THE  
FUTURE OF  
JAZZ?**

# THE TIMES ARTS

## THEATRE

Copenhagen  
comes into  
the West End

PAGE 33



## Scattering with the enemy

Jazz singers are boldly crossing over into pop territory. Clive Davis applauds

Last year the whole world — Michael Tilson Thomas, Cliff Richard and all — queued up to celebrate George Gershwin's centenary. And rightly so. In the jazz realm, on the other hand, every year is a Gershwin centenary. His melodies run through the core of the repertoire, forming a musical DNA in blue. Tonight, as on every other night, someone somewhere will be scattering a chorus of *Fascinating Rhythm* or turning the lights down low with *The Man I Love*.

Without the artistry of jazz singers, many of the tunes we now think of as classics might have survived only as period-pieces. Countless listeners have been won over to the work of Kern, Porter and Berlin not by extravagant Broadway revivals but by Ella Fitzgerald's timeless series of *Songbook* albums.

Even though Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and Carmen McRae have passed on, the Nineties are a good time in which to hear standards in many guises. Once neglected artists such as the ultra-laid-back American, Shirley Horn, have enjoyed a professional rebirth. The Canadian newcomer Diana Krall has justifiably won acclaim for her Nat Cole-inspired trio. New York cabaret diva Mary Cleere Haran regularly attracts full houses here with her sophisticated and waspish shows. And next month (March 11) another American, Michael Feinstein, brings his own winning blend of archivist's enthusiasm and pianistic skill to the Barbican.

But if the past is in safe-hands, the music of the present occupies a more ambiguous position. You can hardly put all the blame on the jazz singers. Given the choice between *Someone To Watch Over Me* or an anthem from *Whistle Down The Wind*, it is fair to assume that they will choose the older every time.

The changing face of the pop industry has played its part too. With the rise of the singer-songwriter the nature of popular song has changed dramatically. Instead of the elegantly structured 32-bar products of Tin Pan Alley, tunes have grown more personal and more direct. The rhythmic and verbal subtleties on which jazz singers thrive are often conspicuously absent.

But not always. The distinctive albums that Claire Martin has released have furnished a rich example of what a discerning vocalist can achieve with the addition of contemporary material. Whether covering



Claire Martin: "Modern songs speak to me more directly than standards. I want my records slipped in with k.d. lang's, not lost behind Carmen McRae's"

Tom Waits's *Old Boyfriends* or Laura Nyro's *Buy and Sell*, the London-born vocalist has shown how much can be gained by looking beyond the tried and tested.

Martin has not deserved the jazz camp entirely: You still hear her at concerts with the BBC Big Band. But her new album *Take My Heart* (released on Monday by Linn) finds her moving even further into "enemy territory". Her producer Paul Stacey has sculpted a glossier pop backdrop. A side-man with Oasis, he has even persuaded Noel Gallagher to bring his acoustic guitar along for the gentle, countrified version of the Beatles' *Help!*

Martin realises she may annoy jazz traditionalists, but she sees nothing wrong in seeking inspiration beyond the authorised canon. "It's a myth that the new songs aren't out there," she says. "You've only got to hear people like Phoebe Snow, Elvis Costello and Joni Mitchell to know that jazz good stuff is still being written."

"I love standards, but modern songs speak to me more directly. Language has changed. So have relationships. A songwriter today is bound to be different from Rodgers and Hammerstein. If you say you're happy and gay now it has a differ-

ent meaning." Ironically, she points to Krall's success as a prime reason for the contemporary mood of *Take My Heart*. "She's lovely, but it made me realise I didn't want to go down that road. I want my records to be slipped in with k.d. lang instead of being lost behind Carmen McRae's."

This spring Martin will be on the road singing Burt Bacharach with Ian Shaw, another R&B-influenced jazz singer who enjoys wandering off the beaten path. Shaw, who has been winning over those Americans who think all Brits sound like Julie Andrews, has a new album of his own out shortly. The lyrics of the title tune, *In A New York Minute*, come from the pen of the expatriate writer Fran Landesman. Other less than conventional

tracks include soul singer Bill Withers's *Grandma's Hands*. Shaw cites Shania Twain and the late Jeff Buckley as two outstanding members of the new wave of songwriters. And although he feels that new tunes "have to breathe for a year or so" before he is ready to tackle them, he has his eye on a song from the last Portishead disc. As the producer Bob Belden wrote in *Downbeat* magazine during a discussion of musicians' crossover tastes: "Jazz musicians have adapted pop material since they thought they could get away with it — except now."

There is always the danger that if artists chase a bigger audience they will end up compromising their values and creating glib fillers that satisfy neither camp. And pessimists would argue that jazz and pop have grown so far apart over the last 30 years that no common ground exists any more. Like anyone else, Ella Fitzgerald made some sub-standard albums, but you cannot imagine that she would ever have got round to adding *Like A Virgin* to her programme.

But there could well be many potential jazz fans waiting to be won over by a singer who connects with their own tastes. Cassandra Wilson, for one, has achieved success with folk-tinged recordings that weave together sources as diverse as U2, Joni Mitchell and bluesman Robert Johnson.

Instrumentalists continue to seek the unexpected, too. Pianist Brad Mehldau won praise for his album *Songs By Mixing Evergreens With Riverman* by cult singer-songwriter Nick Drake. The same number opens Claire Martin's album. Brave minds think alike.

## Axes bold as love

## POP

**SAVAGELY  
FUNNY...  
SUPERB...  
HILARIOUS!**  
**'ROMPING...  
EXUBERANT'**  
**SALEEN STANFORD  
SHEILA HANCOCK  
'SUPERB'**  
**ELIZABETH HALL**

If, as some forecasters say, rock's tide is turning back towards American guitar bands, it will be a belated bonus for Madder Rose. The New York group has endured a switchback career since forming in 1991, with a spell in the next-big-thing enclosure followed by a fallow period.

Fears of their demise have been allayed through the good offices of the independent London label Cooking Vinyl, which two weeks ago released *Tropic Magic*, Madder Rose's splendid 1997 album. Previously only granted release in America and Japan, it now contains two new songs as an appetiser for their next main-course release.

But the crowd that filled the Garage clearly had fond memories of the band's formative years. *Car Song* was an early reminder of the fetching juxtaposition of Billy Cote's distinctive guitar shapes and Mary Lorson's crystalline vocals. Indeed, for much of the set the armoured tank of Cote's axe effects was a deceptive cover for the baby driver sitting inside gently steering the melodies.

In their quieter moments, they exuded some of the delicate intensity of the Cowboy Junkies, Lorson's breezy tones making her a less mercurial version of the Junkies' Margo Timmins. *Jailbird*, one of the new tracks on *Tropic Magic*, boasted a killer guitar motif from Cote that waltzed through the piece like a twang from the Old West. On the other, *Narciso*, live limitations prevented them from recreating the dreamy harmonies of the recorded version, but it still sounded like a group taking ever bolder steps away from base camp.

Rather like an English version of Stevie Nicks, Tzuke's commanding stage presence was both open-hearted and carefully self-contained. At 42 the long, honey-blond hair remains unbanned and the voice has lost none of its cool, plaintive appeal.

The somewhat restrained tone of the first set was established with a string of songs in a classic soft-rock mould.

They were hamstrung by something as mundane as a broken string, and all momentum was lost as Lorson made a drawn-out but unsuccessful attempt at retuning. In the end, she cast the offending instrument aside for a hands-free version of their early single *Beautiful John*, and sounded just fine anyway.

PAUL SEXTON

## Dot commerce

**Judie Tzuke  
Queen Elizabeth Hall**

Tonight, *Fuel Injection* and *Both Alone*, all from her current album, *Secret Agent*, offered a familiar mix of romantically windswept melodies firmly but discreetly shored up by Tzuke's four-piece backing band.

After the interval the musicians were let off the leash, and the guitarist David P. Goodes forged some spectacularly forceful solos during *Let Me Be The Pearl* and *Bring The Rain*, while various guest backing singers, including Tzuke's 11-year-old daughter Bailey, contributed to a dauntingly intense encore of *Billy*.

Tzuke, meanwhile, sang with her customary poise and grace, her voice an instrument of icy allure, whether negotiating the siren-charm melody of *Stay With Me Till Dawn*, the stark, Gothic harmonies of *Mother* or the more lighthearted mood of *One Day I Will Live In France*.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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## GALLERIES

The rise of McQueen

# Films that are all about Steve

**VISUAL ART:** Like his namesake, the artist Steve McQueen risks life and limb for his latest films, now at the ICA. Richard Cork reports

**S**teve McQueen is building a 70ft brick wall when I meet him at the ICA, where his keenly awaited one-man show has just opened. Spanning the entire length of the narrow Concourse Gallery, always an awkward place to display art, the wall transforms the space with its forbidding bulk. McQueen mounts a ladder and begins placing pieces of smashed glass in fresh cement along the top.

"I'm hoping that the wall will be scribbled on," he says with a subversive smile. "If it's not covered in graffiti by the end of the show, I'll be disappointed." Visitors to McQueen's show can also spin themselves into queasiness on his sculptural chrome funfair roundabout. But McQueen's lightheartedness does not entirely mask the tension he feels, staging his first major British exhibition of films, sculpture and photography. Shown extensively abroad since his debut in a mixed ICA survey in 1995, the ebullient 29-year-old is already widely regarded as an outstanding young artist. So far, however, McQueen has enjoyed greater acclaim abroad than in his native London. "I get a better response in the US," he admits. "maybe because black artists

are more noticeable over there and gain a broader acceptance."

Talking about his student years, McQueen soon makes clear that it was a difficult period. At Chelsea School of Art, he painted and "did a lot of drawing, but they didn't have any equipment for film". Even at pace-setting Goldsmiths College, where he went on to study in the early 1990s, he had to "beg, steal and borrow from the film department. Goldsmiths was a tricky time: you had to find your own way. It was only when I saw a contemporary show at the Whitney, during a visit to New York in 1993, that the wide variety of possibilities in art really blew me away, like an explosion with fragments flying off in different directions."

Already, McQueen was fascinated by the potential of film as an artist's medium. "I was a zombie for foreign films," he says, remembering in particular the impact of a John Cassavetes season in 1992. "I loved the intimacy of his films, their changing moods, and the feeling that you never knew what was coming next." This fluidity and unpredictable excitement characterised the two films he showed at the ICA's *Mirage: Enigma of Race, Difference and Desire* in 1995.

**O**ne of his films, *Bear*, was subsequently bought by the Tate Gallery. At once threatening and playful, this Bacon-like confrontation between two naked black men has a dramatic, improvised flow that still typifies some of McQueen's recent work. The principal film in his new show is just as enigmatic, even

though McQueen has now moved on to colour, a triple screen and — for the first time — sound. Called *Deadpan*, it records the giddy journey of an oil barrel pushed by a pink-coated McQueen through the streets of New York. Different viewpoints from the drum are projected alongside each other, with dizzying glimpses of pedestrians, traffic, skyscrapers and the artist himself. The soundtrack adds to the onslaught, with its cacophonous fragments of drum rattle, car din, startled comments from passers-by and McQueen's reiterated "Excuse me, please" as he hurtles along. "It's posh Manhattan," he says, "a very interesting piece of real estate, so damn expensive. But the film is more to do with economy of movement, the wheel, oil, and taking the city — anyone can do it."

McQueen first went to New York when he was six years old. "Most of my family live in the US, either in Brooklyn or Miami, and I've considered moving to New York myself. But I didn't think I'd survive there; for artists, it's like an elephant's graveyard." McQueen's other new film at the ICA, *Deadpan*, pays a highly dramatic homage to a celebrated slapstick moment from Buster Keaton's movie *Steamboat Bill Jr.* Commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where McQueen held a solo exhibition in 1997, it centres on the collapse of a newly built house. McQueen stands beside it, and looks as if he will be fatally injured. Instead, an open window in the facade descends directly on him, leaving the artist uncannily upright and untouched. We see the miraculous event several times over, from various vantage points and at different speeds.

McQueen, the very image of the defiant survivor, remains extraordinarily still and impassive throughout, even though he must have dreaded filming such a potentially lethal sequence. *Deadpan* is all about that wait, about passing through the body, he says, before pointing out: "I'm framed by the window frame and by the institution where my work is shown."

A restless individual, McQueen likes to move on. Two years ago, he decamped with his Dutch partner to Amsterdam. Their child was born there recently, and he cannot imagine ever returning to London. "I don't like it here any more," he explains. "I was getting into a routine, and I love the idea that nobody knows me in Amsterdam. The living conditions are great, especially for kids."

Compared with London, doesn't he find Amsterdam quiet? "Don't forget that I grew up in Ealing," he says with a wry grin. "Anyway, it's not important to me to live in an artist's milieu. I've never liked groups — they remind me too much of joining the Boy Scouts. Even though I'm a Catholic, and definitely an English guy, I'm open and changing, not stuck in a particular identity."

The key, for McQueen, lies

in his art.

"It enables you to work things out in public, creating your own world. Otherwise you're powerless; it would be terrible."

Steve McQueen at the ICA (0171-930 0493) until March 21

# ARTS

## MUSIC

Last year's songs



"Even though I'm a Catholic, and definitely an English guy, I'm open and changing, not stuck in a particular identity" — Steve McQueen reflects on his success at his ICA exhibition

## Handel without care

### CONCERTS

Handel's *Allegro* and *Concerto*

at the Royal Opera House

by ROBIN COOPER

have known it from the generally mealy-mouthed, polite delivery. And if the words go, so does the meaning.

What the operatic world needs is an equivalent of the National Theatre's legendary Patsy Rodenburg, someone to prod soloists into first asking themselves precisely why they are singing the words in their charge, then into whamming them out.

Admittedly, someone may have said something in the interval: in the second part Susan Gritten started to hit the consonants and found a verbal eloquence to match the succulent beauty of her musical phrasing, and it was here that Claron McFadden came into her own with sprightly coloratura and a beguiling trill.

Neal Davies (bass) was the most consistently communicative soloist: Lorna Anderson and Paul Agnew too seldom escaped the straitjacket of church-choir politesse. Excellent solos from Rachel Brown (flute) and Andrew Clark (horn); decent (no more) playing from the King's Consort. But a work of blazing genius.

RODNEY MILNES

## Thorns on the lark

### SONGS AND SONGWRITING

Wigmore Hall

by LEIGH BROMLEY

members of the Berkshire Youth Choir, BBC Sainsbury's Choir of the Year 1996, filed on to the stage with their director Gillian Dohden. Sisson's eight *Bird Songs*, madly eclectic, beguiled the ear rather more than the two Sisson compositions already heard. Then, after two melodic songs by Clement Ishmael, it was showtime, whether you wanted it or not. Leigh McDonald popped in from *Killing Rasputin* to sing and squawk through a sub-Sondheim ditty. The National Youth Music Theatre's show *The Kissing-Dance* was also heard from. But the only theatre song with real strength was Richard Taylor's *What We Have*, from his musical version of *The Go-Between*.

Then the cabaret clowns took over: not perhaps the best way to end an evening already strong on self-indulgence and weak on memorable music.

GEOFF BROWN

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John Gross, Sunday Telegraph  
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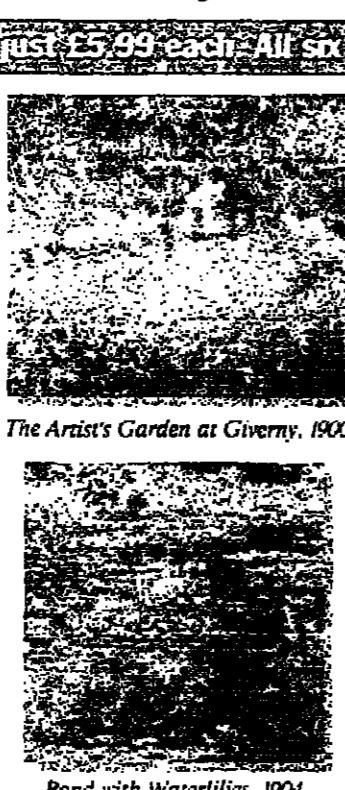
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CHANGING TIMES

## THEATRE

Frayn's fine fantasy

# This nuclear fuse still fizzes

**A**nyone seeing Michael Frayn's superb play for the second time will know with what care and artistic cunning he structures it to carry his three characters forward to the electrifying scene that begins with Niels Bohr's tentative: "Unless . . ." Yet knowing the nature of the shore on which the waves of dialogue will finally break only increases the tension of watching Bohr, his wife Margrethe and his former pupil Werner Heisenberg approach, retreat and at last unite at this frightening place.

Copenhagen has already won a

## THEATRE

**Copenhagen**

couple of "Best Play of the Year" awards, and though its argument is to do with whether Hitler's Germany might have been able to build an atom bomb in time to win the Second World War, the import of the argument extends far beyond the mid-20th century. Because all around the central issues of nuclear fission and Nazi conquest are the timeless anxieties of scientists' responsibility for the consequences of what they discover.

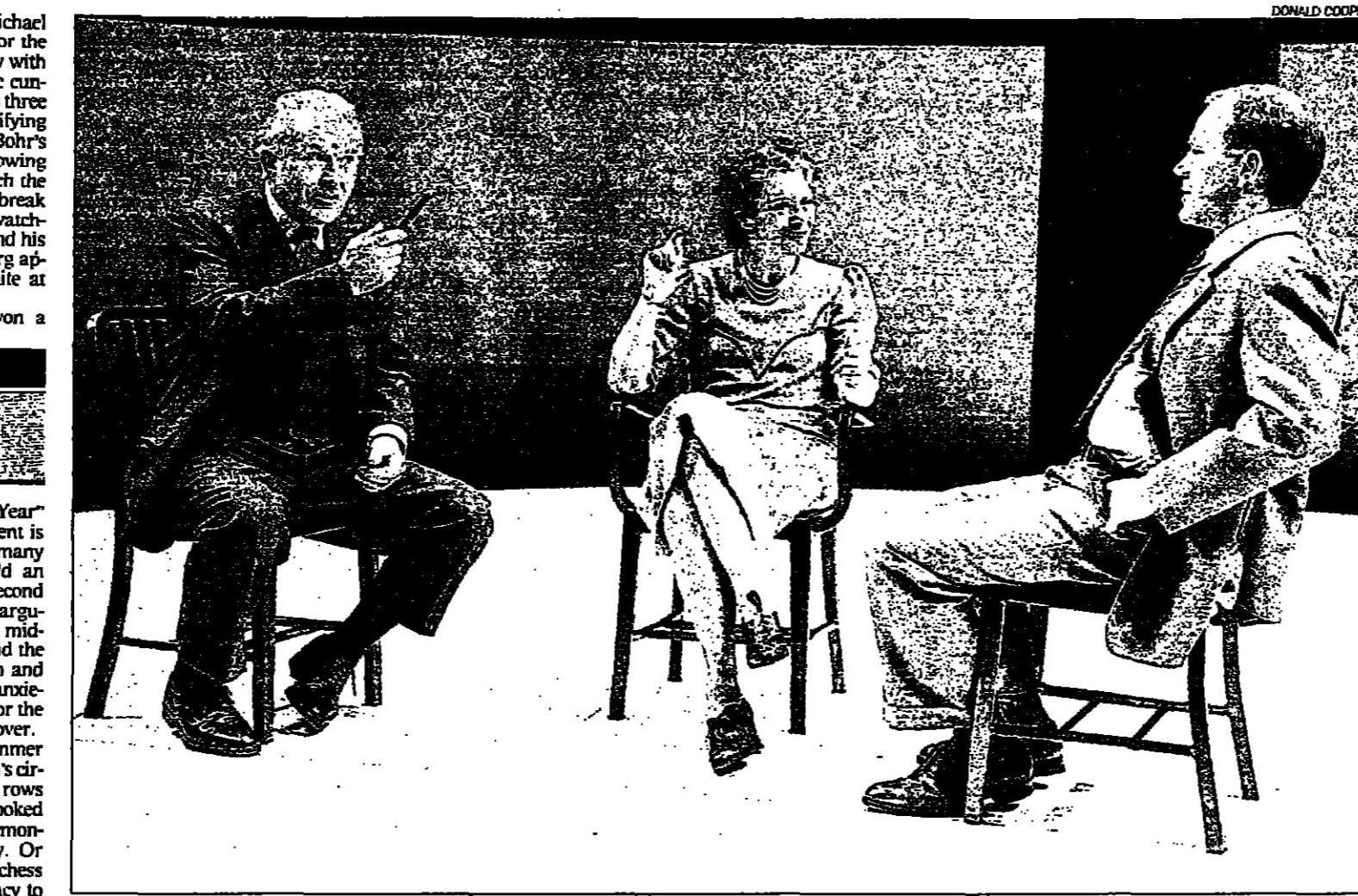
When the play opened last summer at the Cottesloe, Peter J. Davison's circular set was backed by curving rows of seats where the audience looked like students at an academic demonstration or members of a jury. Or both. The dimensions of the Duchess Theatre allow that same intimacy to be reproduced, and though our eyes take in the presence of these other onlookers they never distract us.

There is no need to have studied nuclear physics beforehand, because one of the measures of Frayn's skill is how attractively he interweaves the science, the politics and the impulses of individual lives. Indeed, one of the points the play emphasises is how these matters did interweave in the lives of Bohr and Heisenberg.

**B**irmingham Rep's laudable commitment to new writing has paid off with Declan Croghan's striking new play at its Door studio space about Irishmen in London. Set in deepest Kilburn — the designer Patrick Conellan has created a grotty hovel of a bedsit — the action starts with two of the Paddy's nursing hangovers, cooking gigantic fry-ups and performing perfunctory ablutions with washing-up liquid.

Anto (Tom Farrelly) is wide-eyed, impressionable, a bit of a milksop; Kevin (Michael Colgan) jaunty and a touch irritable. Much mileage is extracted from their endearing hopelessness, and the first half is sprinkled with one-liners.

Which makes you think that the title sounds like the beginning of a good joke, and leaves you expecting the punchline. But when it comes in the second half, it's a more hard-hitting



Settling uncertainties: David Burke (Niels Bohr), Sara Kestelman (Margrethe Bohr) and Matthew Marsh (Werner Heisenberger) in Copenhagen

Heisenberg's scientific fame rests upon his Uncertainty Principle: you can determine the position of an atomic particle or its speed, but not both at the same time. Radiating from this in Frayn's play are the other uncertainties, chief of which is the visit paid by Heisenberg (a German) to the half-Jewish Bohr in Nazi-occupied Denmark in 1941. Did he want

to find out if the Americans were

working on a bomb? Did he want to be told not to work on one, or to learn that his chances of success were hopeless? Or something else (Frayn's own, exquisite suggestion)?

And infusing these matters of high moment are the powerful emotional currents between the three principals. The father-son relationship be-

tween Bohr and his troubled pupil; the defensive attention of Bohr's wife as the unwelcome guest stumbles from one foolish courtesy to the next, all three existing in a sort of limbo where, since they are dead, they can at last endeavour to clarify the uncertainties of that fatal meeting.

Michael Blakemore's intelligent production (of a script with one

single stage direction) guides the three actors into bringing their characters to thrilling life. David Burke's gently manly Bohr, Sara Kestelman's shrewd Margrethe, Matthew Marsh's twisting, shifting and finally certain Heisenberg. Masterly performances in a masterpiece.

JEREMY KINGSTON

**A hard Irish joke****Padraic Ó Catháin****Padraic Ó Catháin**

CRICKET: DIVERGENCE OF TWO FORMS OF GAME EMPHASISED BY LEFT-HANDER'S IMPORTANCE TO ENGLAND

# Fairbrother makes the world of difference

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SYDNEY

THE Australia party to tour the West Indies, announced earlier this week, and England's team for the finals of the triangular tournament that will be resolved this week, highlight the growing independence of the one-day game.

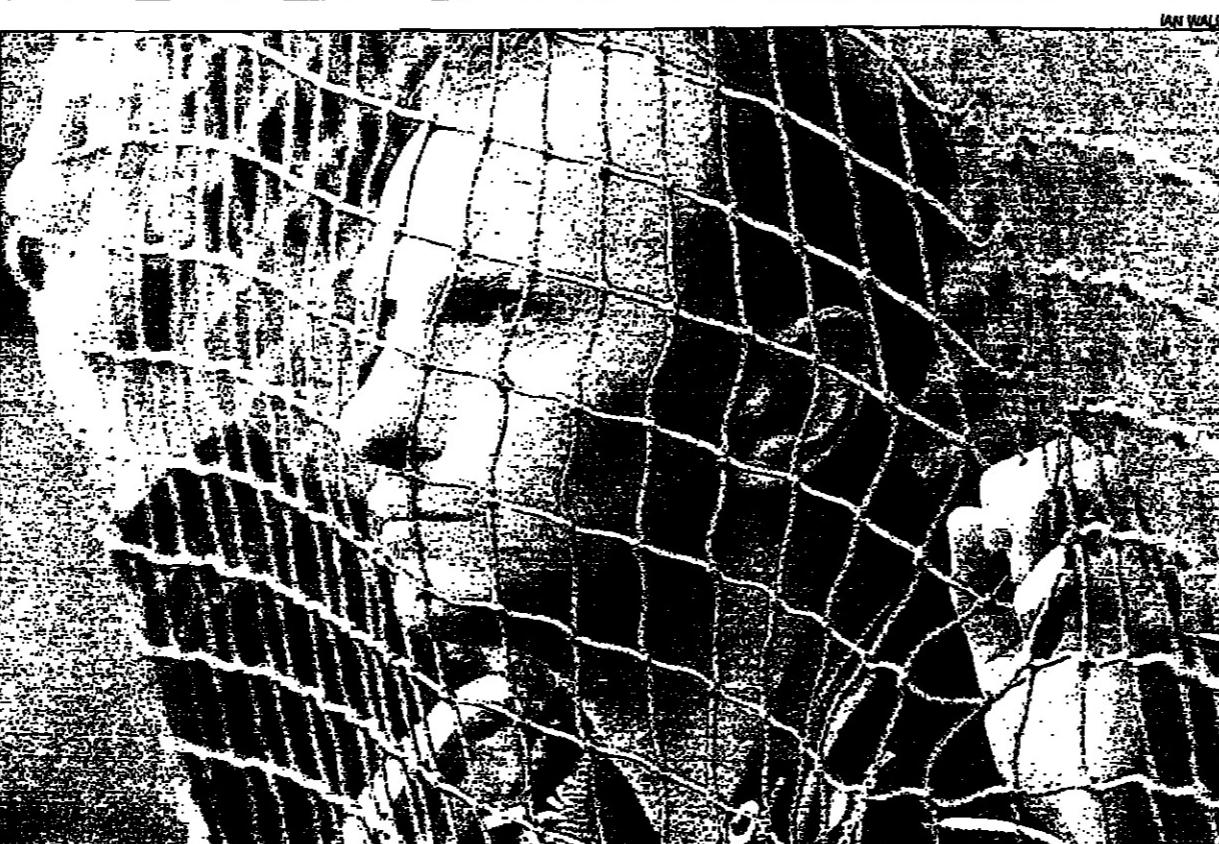
Of the 15 Australians picked for the Caribbean tour, seven are not involved in the present one-day thrash, eight if you include the injured Jason Gillespie. They include specialists like Michael Slater and Matthew Elliott, the opening batsmen, Ian Healy, the wicketkeeper, and Stuart MacGill, the wrist spinner. England have 15 players here now after Mark Alfeyne's departure. Only five are first-choice Test players — Stewart, Hussain, Gough, Muttallu and Headley.

Occasionally there is a convergence of the wain, Adam Dale, the 30-year-old seam bowler who has played just a single Test, may have thought that his international career was restricted to the one-day games. Yet, as a result of his one-day form, he is on the plane later this month, to supply the steady seam bowling that men such as Paul Reiffel have done in the past.

On the whole, though, the two games are drifting further apart. A player such as Mark Ealham, Kent's bowling all-rounder, may play Tests at home in the future, but he is unlikely to be on another tour. Adam Hollioake appears to be one degree under Test level, and Ashley Giles can expect greater opportunities as a one-day smotherer than a five-day spinner. Among the batsmen, Nick Knight may not come again at Test level, which is a shame, although he has an important part to play during the World Cup, as opener and superb all-round fielder.

The most interesting players in both teams are the left-handers, Neil Fairbrother and Michael Bevan. Both played Test cricket as young men, and neither really conquered it, although there was a time, two years ago, when the latter's unorthodox left-arm spin was buying a few wickets, that Bevan was on the cusp of a regular run in the Australia team.

Both men are excellent fielders, although one must enter a caveat against Fairbrother: when his hamstrings are not playing up. He remains doubtful for the first of the finals, at the Sydney Cricket Ground



Fairbrother stares through the netting at England's practice session in Sydney yesterday, forced inside because of rain

today where heavy rain yesterday has put the match in some doubt, after missing the last two preliminary games with a recurrence of this old problem. There must be a real doubt that he can stand up to the strain of the World Cup.

Fairbrother was one of the ones that got away. Picked as a 23-year-old by England in 1987, he got off to a bad start in his first Test and never found the composure to turn his bristling talent into something substantial.

**LINKS**  
TELEVISION:  
Sky Sports 2, 7.30am (free),  
3pm (highlights)  
□ The Times' one-day series hotline —  
0891 881 461. Records, updates and com-  
mentary. Calls cost 50p per minute

Bevan is a more complicated man. In Yorkshire, and in Sussex, where he has played his county cricket, Bevan has shown himself to be a brilliant player and, in holding the innings together in one-day cricket, he has few peers. Australia bat him at No 6, with the task of finding the necessary runs in the final stages, and he has rewarded them with a sequence of important performances. He has also, from time to time, taken them close and not delivered victory.

Fairbrother, a mainstay of the Lancashire team through two decades of high achievement in the shorter game, has played in ten Lord's finals, and been a winner seven times. He played superbly for England in the 1992 World Cup, when they reached the final, but his half-century that night in Melbourne could not deny Pakistan.

Now, to his own astonishment, he is again a member of a World Cup party, restored to the side by Graham Thorpe's back injury and his own good form. His Test days were over long ago, and for a time it seemed his county career was far from secure, but he has returned with renewed purpose. In the longer game, bowlers have exposed the shortcomings of both batsmen. Fast bowlers literally bounced Bevan into submission, while Fairbrother's technical weakness was outside off stump, where he would open the face of the bat — and still does — to run the ball down to third man.

Bevan and Fairbrother, wise guys in the ways of the one-day world. Should Australia or England prosper this summer, and Australia almost certainly will, they will have done much to bring it about.

## Loye supplies ideal platform

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS  
IN BULAWAYO

unbeaten 122 on the first day of the second "Test" in Bulawayo.

Loye's was the highlight of a professional, if occasionally muted, performance that has supplied a platform from which a sizeable first-innings total should follow.

Michael Vaughan won his sixth successive toss on tour but was infuriated with

himself when, after eight scoreless overs, he steered Bryan Strang straight to gully. Loye and Darren Maddy, the Leicestershire batsman, consolidated with an attractive partnership of 122 in 39 overs. Maddy contributing a solid 64 before running Andy Whittley to short mid-on. Two more wickets fell before Loye, who moved to a century with his fourteenth boundary, and Vikram Solanki added 67 to take England to the close.

## Gough plays leading role

FROM JOHN STERN  
IN WELLINGTON

then failed to take a wicket in the final session.

Michael Gough, the England captain, batted for more than 6½ hours for 116, one run more than the lead his side achieved when they were bowled out for 225. He has worked hard on his off-side strokes and his driving looked in reasonable order. The century came up with his twelfth

boundary, an on-driven four off Marin, the left-arm spinner. But, batting with the tail, Gough was caught behind as he drove with uncharacteristic abandon at James Franklin.

Gough's partnership of 142 with Richard Dawson, who batted with admirable application, was the only one of substance in the England innings. Shaw took five wickets, as he did in New Plymouth.

Scoreboards, page 37

## CHRONICLE of the FUTURE



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JULIE LISO

## Wasim critical of umpire and slow pitch

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN DELHI

THE harmony that has been so conspicuous through Pakistan's first significant tour of India for 12 years was threatened last night after Wasim Akram criticised the umpiring and the pitch in the second Test match in Delhi. As the touring team left for a three-day game in Kochi, which begins tomorrow, Camerie Smith, the match referee confirmed that he was investigating comments made by the Pakistani captain in *The Pioneer*, an Indian newspaper.

Even if Smith decides that Wasim has not contravened the International Cricket Council (ICC) code of conduct by saying that Pakistan "got a couple of debatable decisions" during the defeat by 212 runs, then the player can be judged to have raised the matter ahead of the first game in the inaugural Asian Test Championship (ATC) next Tuesday.

There will be a measure of support in the international game for Wasim's suggestion that Tests should be officiated by two umpires from neutral countries instead of the present arrangement where a neutral operates alongside an umpire from the home nation. But because this is among the innovations agreed for the ATC — sanctioned by the sport's governing body — Wasim might have been better holding his tongue until after the match in Calcutta.

From the moment of arrival in India three weeks ago the tour has been a diplomatic and public relations triumph.

However, the frequency and volume of Pakistan's appealing during the two Tests was criticised in the Indian press. Most newspapers also felt that the touring team enjoyed the better of the decisions in the first game in Madras.

A. Jayaprakash, from India, stood at the end from which Anil Kumble took ten wickets in the second innings on Sunday. He gave five batsmen out to catches close to the wicket and three leg-before. Replay did not prove error in any case.

Wasim, while acknowledging that the better side won in Delhi, said: "We need neutral umpires in all cricket and especially in an India-Paki-

stan series. That will prevent all controversy. If a neutral umpire makes the wrong decision, then both teams will accept it. I knew it was only a matter of time before the wicket played up and, to make matters worse, we also got a couple of debatable decisions."

Wasim felt that the pitch, a slow turner, placed too great an advantage on the side winning the toss. "How can it be fair when you lose the toss and your chances of winning the match are immediately reduced by half?" Wasim said. "I thought it might turn from the third day but Saglan [Mushtaq] got it to turn viciously in the second session."

An unchanged India squad will reconvene at the weekend for the start of the ATC, a triangular tournament also involving Sri Lanka. The media here tends to be a little one-



Wasim: controversy

eyed and, if the papers decide in the interim that Wasim has cast a slur on their country, and on Jayaprakash in particular, then it will have implications for Eden Gardens, where the capacity is 70,000.

Despite his criticisms, Wasim believes that the two-match series, which was independent of the ATC, emerged as a huge success once right-wing Hindu militants called off threats of disruptive action a week before the first Test. "It has shown that cricket can achieve what politics cannot," Wasim said. "The Indian people, like the Pakistanis, feel that cricket and politics should not mix."

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand reported to me by Brian Jackson, one of the best players in the TGR £10 game. The play of the hearts depends on assumptions about the layout of the other suits.

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♦ AJ92	♦ AK43	
♦ AS	♦ Q76	
♦ Q87	♦ J876	
♦ 1064	♦ 1062	
♦ 1062	♦ Q73	♦ 10643
		5
		KJ982
		953
♦ K5	♦ Q1092	
♦ Q73	♦ AK4	

Contract: Seven No-Trumps by South. Lead: six of diamonds.

South opened One No-Trump (15-17) and North, into his fifth glass of TGR's Red Infuriator, ambitiously raised to Seven No-Trumps. West, a good player, led the six of diamonds. Along with the hypothesised king of diamonds and four spades, that means East does not have room to hold four hearts (an exercise in counting up to thirteen, which I hope anyone who doesn't see the point immediately will now do).

What declarer should do is take the ace of diamonds. He now has eleven tricks if he guesses the hearts: two in spades, four in hearts, one in diamonds and four in clubs. His best chance of two more is to find West with the queen of spades, and East with four spades and the king of diamonds. If that is the distribution, East will be squeezed in the end-game.

After winning the ace of diamonds declarer should take his club winners. Here all follow to three rounds, and each of West, North, and East discards a diamond on the fourth round. Now,

how should declarer set about the hearts?

East has shown up with three clubs and two small diamonds. Along with the hypothesised king of diamonds and four spades, that means East does not have room to hold four hearts (an exercise in counting up to thirteen, which I hope anyone who doesn't see the point immediately will now do). So declarer should play a heart to the ace and a heart back to the queen. East's singleton is revealed, and declarer continues by finessing against West's jack and cashing the last heart. That reduces everyone to four cards: East cannot keep 1063 of spades and the king of diamonds, and if he discards a spade all dummy's spades are good after declarer plays the king of spades and finesse the jack.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- OOCOTILLO
  - a. A dance
  - b. A sherry
  - c. A cactus
- SABIR
  - a. A teacher
  - b. A pidgin
  - c. A corkscrew dagger
- RAZET
  - a. A breed of dog
  - b. A ballet step
  - c. Bloodless bullfighting
- RIRORIRO
  - a. A washerman
  - b. A warbler
  - c. Sheep's eye as delicacy

Answers on page 38

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Keene — Krupenac, Slovenia, 1998.

Black is two paces ahead, but, surprisingly, has some difficulties as his knight is threatened and the white queen and rook are a powerful force. Black's next move cleverly sets up a winning tactic for him. What did he play?

Solution on page 38

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Drawn outcome

Today I conclude my coverage of the important jengme match between Michael Adams, England's top-ranked grandmaster, and Yasser Seirawan, the prominent US grandmaster. The final score of two wins each with six draws led to a tied outcome. I wrap up with the final decisive game and an exciting draw.

White: Michael Adams  
Black: Yasser Seirawan  
Mermaid Beach Club  
Bermuda 1999

### Caro-Kann Defence

1 e4 e5

2 d4 d5

3 Nc3 Nc6

4 Bf4 Bf5

5 Nf3 Nf6

6 Ng5 g5

7 Qd2 Qd5

8 Bg3 Nf6

9 Nc3 Qd4

10 Bf2 Bg4

11 Ne2 Bg5

12 Ne3 O-O

13 Nc3 Ne5

14 O-O Ne4

15 Ne5 Nc6

16 Qd5 Qc7

17 Ne6 Qd8

18 Qd4 Ne4

19 Qd5 Qd8

20 Qd2 Qd5

21 Bf4 Qd6

22 Ne5 Bg4

23 Ne3 Bg5

24 Rf1 Ne4

25 Rf2 Ne5

26 Ne4 Ne6

27 Ne5 Ne4

28 Ne6 Ne5

### Diagram of final position

Diagram of final position

Diagram of final position

Diagram of final position

Teeton Mill given top mark ahead of Suny Bay as Aintree handicap is unveiled

# Pitman advocates value of feminine touch

By CHRIS MCGRATH

JENNY PITMAN, the first lady of Aintree, is recommending a policy of "ladies first" for the 1999 Martell Grand National. Such deference owes nothing to good manners and everything to the fact that women trainers could look at the weights for the great steeplechase, published yesterday, and consider themselves first among equals.

In 1983, Mrs Pitman became the first to train a National winner, Corbiere, and followed up 12 years later with Royal Athlete — albeit neither victory will linger as long in the memory, perhaps, as the hollow one of Esha Ness in the tragicomedy of 1993.

Despite having recently confirmed her continuing fortune in a stern battle — for her health — Mrs Pitman is offering just one candidate for this year's race. Nor, predictably, does she feel that Naithen Lad, a 25-1 chance, has ever prised himself free of the handicapper's attentions.

Nonetheless she urged punters to consider the lucrative possibilities of the Tote's offer of 11-2 against "Girl Power", as the other eight entries made by female trainers include two



from the stable of Venetia Williams: Teeton Mill, whose King George VI Chase success earns him top-weight, and General Wolfe, who demonstrated at Uttoxeter on Saturday that Aintree does not have a monopoly on blood-curdling falls. The good fortune that saw him walk away unscathed there would serve him well on April 10.

"That's got to be a good bet," she said. Naithen Lad was second to Clever Remark at Sandown on Saturday but his trainer feels that he has never been forgiven for winning at the Cheltenham Festival as a novice. "They've been hard, treated him like a Gold Cup horse," she said.

"Unfortunately, he got a bit demoralised. He was beaten by a horse carrying a stone

and a half less at Sandown, so don't look at the distance we were beaten but as far as how far we pulled away from the third."

The precept of handicap racing is that the runners, awarded different weights to reflect their relative talents, start on a level playing field. Nonetheless, the simple master of lead weight decided Suny Bay's fate when he toiled nobly into second again last year. Teeton Mill will be some horse if he can go one better after first tackling Florida Pearl in the Tote-Cheltenham Gold Cup, though at least the 23-day interval this year allows more breathing space than has sometimes been the case.

Coral offers 33-1 against the grey completing the double, compared with 50-1 against Cyfor Malta, one of 14 entries trained by Martin Pipe. 66-1 against Double Thriller, 80-1 Escarrefougue, 100-1 Unsinkable Boxer and 150-1 Suny Bay.

Williams, weary of the rumours that she has found to go with the new territory she has conquered this season, reiterated that Teeton Mill is "absolutely fine" after one or two minor problems since Kempton. "It's a situation I always hoped to be in, one day, but it's terrifying once one actually

gets here," she said. Phil Smith, who recently succeeded Christopher Mordaunt as chasing handicapper, might tell her that his is a more invidious position. His style is more aggressive than that of his predecessor and has prompted some criticism from trainers.

Happily, there was no grumbling about the weights for his first National. Dismissing his baptism of fire as "a storm in a teacup", Smith said: "I've had support from those I would consider the top five trainers in the country, which has been very reassuring. I hope trainers get used to big drops and big rises. That's my style and I hope they accept that and work with me rather than against me." Big rises and big drops: it is certainly an appropriate approach to Aintree.



Earth Summit leads home Suny Bay in last year's National

# History lessons worth heeding

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

FAR from being another national lottery, the Martell Grand National has become one of the easier big races to solve in recent years because of winners regularly fulfilling two connected criteria.

First — and foremost — horses allocated less than 11 stone, and preferably between 10 stone and 10st 8lb, enjoy a huge advantage. Corbiere in 1983 was the last to carry more than 11 stone to victory and since then only two have successfully carried more than 10st 8lb.

The reason is simple. The further a horse runs, the greater the burden posed by every extra pound on its back. The Grand National distance of 4½ miles is longer than any other race in the calendar which effectively means those runners towards the top of the handicap face a double penalty in the final stages.

Identifying runners in the correct weight band two months before the race can be tricky for those at the top of the handicap could fall by the wayside, prompting a hefty rise.

However, a second sieve through which National aspirants must pass involves their official BHB rating. In the past dozen runnings, the win-

ner has come from a narrow band — 146 to 157 — confirming the suspicion that a horse with a touch of class and a low weight is an ideal combination.

With that in mind, two horses make long range appeal at their current odds. The "obvious" selection is Double Thriller, generally available at 12-1 but as low as 9-1 favourite with the tote. The lightly raced nine-year-old famously beat Teeton Mill at Cheltenham last April when trained by his owner, Reg Wilkins.

He has since joined Paul Nicholls' powerful yard and on his seasonal appearance at Wincanton recently he hacked up against some decent handicappers.

"I think he is a real Grand National type. He jumps well, stays well and has a touch of class," Nicholls said yesterday. "He is such a big horse that even if the weights go up and he has to carry a bit more it won't make any difference."

Martin Pipe has made his usual block entry but the runner who will be difficult to keep out of the frame is Eudipe, a recent Sandown winner, who boasts an impressive catalogue of big-race form and is worth a small each-way investment at 20-1.

## GRAND NATIONAL WEIGHTS AND ANTE-POST BETTING

TEETON MILL (Miss V Williams)	10yrs, 12st 0lb
SUNY BAY (S Sherwood)	10-11-13
ESCARREFOUQUE (D Nicholson)	7-1-8
CHERIE (D Nicholson)	6-1-14
GENERAL WOLFE (Miss V Williams)	10-11-13
EARTH SUMMIT (N Twiston-Davies)	11-11-10
GO BALLISTIC (D Nicholson)	10-10-13
OR ROYAL (M Pipe)	8-10-12
LORD GYLLENE (S Brookshaw)	11-10-12
COOME HILL (W Dennis)	10-10-11
CYBORGO (M Pipe)	9-10-11
EUDIPE (M Pipe)	7-10-10
DOUBLE THRILLER (P Nicholls)	9-10-8
UNSINKABLE BOXER (M Pipe)	10-10-8
SENIOR EL BETTRUCCI (Miss S Neck)	10-10-7
BELMONT KING (P Nicholls)	11-10-7
ADDINGTON BOY (F Murphy)	11-10-7
UNGUILDED MISSILE (N Richards)	11-10-7
ROUGH QUEST (T Casey)	13-10-7
TAMARIS (P Nicholls)	6-10-4
HANAGHAM (P Nicholls)	8-10-3
DR LEUNT (P Hobbs)	8-10-3
FIDDLING THE FACTS (H Henderson)	8-10-3
BARONET (D Nicholson)	9-10-2
PAPILLON (T Walsh)	8-10-1
CALL IT A DAY (D Nicholson)	9-10-0
BELLS LIFE (P Hobbs)	10-10-0
MORCELLI (J Johnson)	11-10-0
AVRA ANSON (Miss J Camacho)	11-10-0
BANJO (P Nicholls)	9-9-11
KENDAL CAVALIER (H Hawke)	9-9-11
RIVER LOSSIE (C Egerton)	10-9-7
CALLIOSE BAY (D Sherwood)	10-9-7

## 3.20 JOHN HUGHES GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL (HANDICAP CHASE)

(58.100m, 21 110yd) (6 runners)

1 F111-E EARTHTHROTT 38 (B.F.G.S.) (P Nicholls) 8-11-10 ... T Tizzard 127

2 CAMELOT KNIGHT 30 (B.F.G.S.) (M Morris) Miss V Williams 10-10-9 ... R Dennewell 153

3 T1009 DANVERS HAWK 30 (B.F.G.S.) (Chris Ratcliffe) P Bowes 9-10-9 ... T Murphy 162

4 P1020 DODDS 30 (B.F.G.S.) (P Nicholls) 8-11-10 ... S O'Rourke 152

5 11-21 NAUGHTY FUTURE 15 (B.F.G.S.) (A Collett) J O'Neill 10-10-9 ... R McGrath 153

6 14-355 SUNNYBROOK PRINCE 30 (C.O.S.) (L Fitter) F Poyer 9-10-9 ... J Frost 138

To be run at Aintree on April 10.

Long handicap: Naughty Future 9-12, Sunnybrook Prince 8-7.

Not qualified: America, Indestructible, Kentucky Gold, Dekker, Oisin, H.M., Prinzipaliz, What A Hand, Tiptop.

To be run at Aintree on April 10.

Long handicap: Naughtie Prince 9-12, Sunnybrook Prince 8-7.

Not qualified: America, Indestructible, Kentucky Gold, Dekker, Oisin, H.M., Prinzipaliz, What A Hand, Tiptop.

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To be run at Aintree on April 10.

Long handicap: Naughtie Prince 9-12,

One new coach experiments with winning line-up while the other sticks to familiar formation

## France draw confidence from status as world champions

BY MATT DICKINSON

**THE SMELL** of success lingers around the France camp as closely as autograph hunters surround Zinedine Zidane. It follows the players from their hotel to the training ground, and it will waft with them this evening as they journey past Wembley Way. It is an air of utter assuredness that comes from being champions of the world, and it has transformed good players into great ones.

With men like Desailly, Petit and Zidane advancing to their peak, it is not just the cockerels on their shirts that can afford to strut and crow. The supreme self-confidence of the French has been interpreted by some as arrogance. They flew into London only 48 hours before tonight's game, and the casualness of their manner can occasionally smack of conceit.

Do not be fooled. It is simply that the machine is ticking over so smoothly now that it needs only the slightest greasing. Asked what the coach told the team before games, one player replied: "He tells us we are world champions so enjoy it."

And it really does appear that simple. The task of picking the side has now fallen to Roger Lemerre, who took over after the World Cup triumph last summer. It might have seemed a genuine example of the "impossible job", given that his country had just scaled the Everest of international football, but Lemerre shows no signs of leading them down.

A canny, as well as a charming, operator, he remains unbeaten as an international manager. His background — something which the Football Association may care to note as it searches for a replacement for Glenn Hoddle — is far from prestigious and he was very much the safe option, just as Howard Wilkinson appears with England.

An international defender who won six caps, he was coach of the French military team until he was invited to join Aimé Jacquet's back-up staff last year, and he has no great stature in the world game. Nor is he a tactical genius, but he does not need to be as he builds on the strengths of an impenetrable defence and redoubtable midfield that made France so formidable in the World Cup.

A more adventurous soul by nature than Jacquet — and a more



personable man as well — he is now tinkering with an attack which, if successful, could make France a side of terrifying potential. Leboeuf and Vieira, idols in the English game, are not even likely to start. Nicolas Anelka, the Arsenal forward, is Lemerre's great hope for the future, but he remains as hard to predict as his moods. "He might have been picked for the World Cup, but it was a little too early for him," Lemerre said. "If he keeps up the good work, he will be a great player."

Arsenal supporters who remain unconvinced by that argument should have the chance to judge further tonight. The 19-year-old is likely to start, and Lemerre may experiment by using his pace in isolation up front. Keown and Adams are good at man-to-man marking, but not so happy when there is a lot of running around them, Lemerre said, and he may try to confuse England's centre backs by giving them only their Arsenal clubmate to mark.

Such tactics would see Zidane and Djorkaeff, the Internazionale forward who will play against Manchester United in the European Cup quarter-final next month — in tandem just behind the striker. Deschamps, the captain, and Petit will bolster the midfield while Vieira must compete with Boghossian for one place.

The defence, with Blanc likely to be selected ahead of Leboeuf, is the one that played for most of the World Cup. Such a team would be one lacking in width, but it appears that the France coach has no intention of recalling David Ginola, the Tottenham Hotspur winger, who has been exiled from his national team since 1993.

"We all love David, but I am not obliged to pick him," Lemerre said. "He does not integrate into the team. David is 32 now, and we have many good young players. Look at Anelka. He is only 19, but he has won the league and cup with Arsenal and played in the Champions' League."

"David's talent is not in dispute. I used to watch Paris Saint-Germain just to see him. His ability is exceptional, but I also have to think about the team. And what a team when Vieira cannot even be guaranteed a place."



Zidane, the France midfielder player, may be asked by Lemerre to play an attacking role behind Anelka

## Wilkinson opts for proven defensive unit

BY ROB HUGHES

FOR the first time in five years, debate of the England team on the morning of a Wembley match can be done knowing more or less the starting XI. Howard Wilkinson, the caretaker coach, takes on France with a basic, very British 4-4-2 formation. His defence is from Arsenal, the best defensive unit in the FA Carling Premiership. And, more important than the fact that we know the plan, the players know it.

It was Terry Venables who began the poker game of concealing the England line-up to fox — or so he thought — the opposition. But it was Glenn Hoddle, who took secrecy to perverse extremes, not even taking the players into his confidence. How on earth they could rehearse, only the trainer knew.

Wilkinson has stripped team selection of its mythology. Logic dictated that with three days to prepare a side against the world champions, he should build on the rock of the Arsenal defence that, for a decade, has been the most secure in the Premiership.

Seaman, Dixon, Adams and Keown are getting older, but they know one another, they are pragmatic and they have no fear of the big occasion. The argument that a foreigner should be hired to help England is thus, at a stroke, absurd. The Arsenal rearguard was forged by George Graham, a Scot, and refined by Arsène Wenger, a Frenchman.

What Wilkinson cannot do is deploy the guards, the two midfield players who work like dervishes to keep to a minimum the exposure of that ageing Arsenal defence to the pace and running power of young attackers. That duo, Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira, are French, and thus available to the opposition tonight.

"We know France are world champions," Tony Adams said. "I work with about 12 of them ... and I'm not going back on Thursday defeated!" Adams is one of the senior England players with whom Wilkinson, wisely, seeks co-operation. When a player who has represented his country 56 times holds the opinion that Englishmen are more comfortable in a back line of four, it is fanciful to impose the German preference of 3-5-2.

Hoddle insisted upon it, but also kept Adams. Wilkinson starts with the players on side. However, one hopes that the Football Association go no further with the suggestion that players should be consulted on the appointment of a permanent coach — for that would be akin to asking pupils to nominate their own master.

Adams, once more, has sensible words on the subject. "The players have got to play," he said, "and the managers have got to manage. I've had 16 years as a pro, so if I think I've got things to say on the playing side, I'll offer it to the manager, whoever he is. But I'm not into the politics of it."

The responsibility for selecting the coach is for the FA, not the players. Their job is to win tonight, and they can because, as worthy as France proved

last summer, the World Cup was on their ground, under their organisation. The France defence is mighty, possibly even better than that of Arsenal. Their midfield, organised by Deschamps, will be met by the Liverpool combination of Ince, fighting Petit's fire, and Redknapp, hoping to supply the flanks of Beckham and Anderson and the forward power of Shearer and, presumably, Owen.

Wilkinson wants to take his third day on the training ground to convince himself that the Shearer-Owen tandem knit together better than Fowler or Cole. That is not a coach holding back but a man using what little time he has to see who is sharpest on the day and to pick, if possible, a winning XI.

England need victory more than France; they need something to boost their confidence before the crucial European championship qualifying contest with Poland next month. And Wilkinson, unless he has been told something that we do not yet know, needs a win to ensure that this is not, for him, a one-night stand. Starting afresh in March would be a reckless gamble, so while there is little for the future in Wilkinson's selection, he clearly deems it more important to get the present right.

Until tomorrow, the best that he can deliver is a record that reads: Played one, won one, defeated the champions of the world.

## History points to England facing stiff task

BY MEL WEBB

AS THOUGH they do not have enough on their hands, a legacy left to the present England team by their predecessors will be abroad at Wembley tonight. If they manage to defeat France, they will be bucking a powerful trend — only once in the past 23 years have England contrived a victory over the world champions at the time of a full international.

The last time they did so was also at Wembley, but it is necessary to go back to May, 1980 to find it. England beat Argentina 3-1, but the spirit of triumphalist that was thick in the air that night was as nothing compared with the national side's previous victory over the World Cup holders of the day.

It was March 12, 1975, England v West Germany before a crowd of 100,000 at Wembley, and against all the odds England won 2-0 to claim their first success over their old rivals since beating them 4-2 in the World Cup final of 1966.

The team, managed by Don Revie, were without Paul Madeley, Allan Clarke, Kevin Beattie and David Johnson, all of whom had played in an FA Cup replay between Leeds United and Ipswich Town the night before, but a virtuous performance by one of English football's wayward geniuses more than compensated for their absence. Alan Hudson was *hugely* gifted, but his was a talent that went largely unfulfilled, both for club and country.

This, however, was his

night of nights, a match in which he was the spark behind the flames as Bell and McDonald scored the all-important goals. Hudson had never produced such a performance for England before — and was destined never to again.

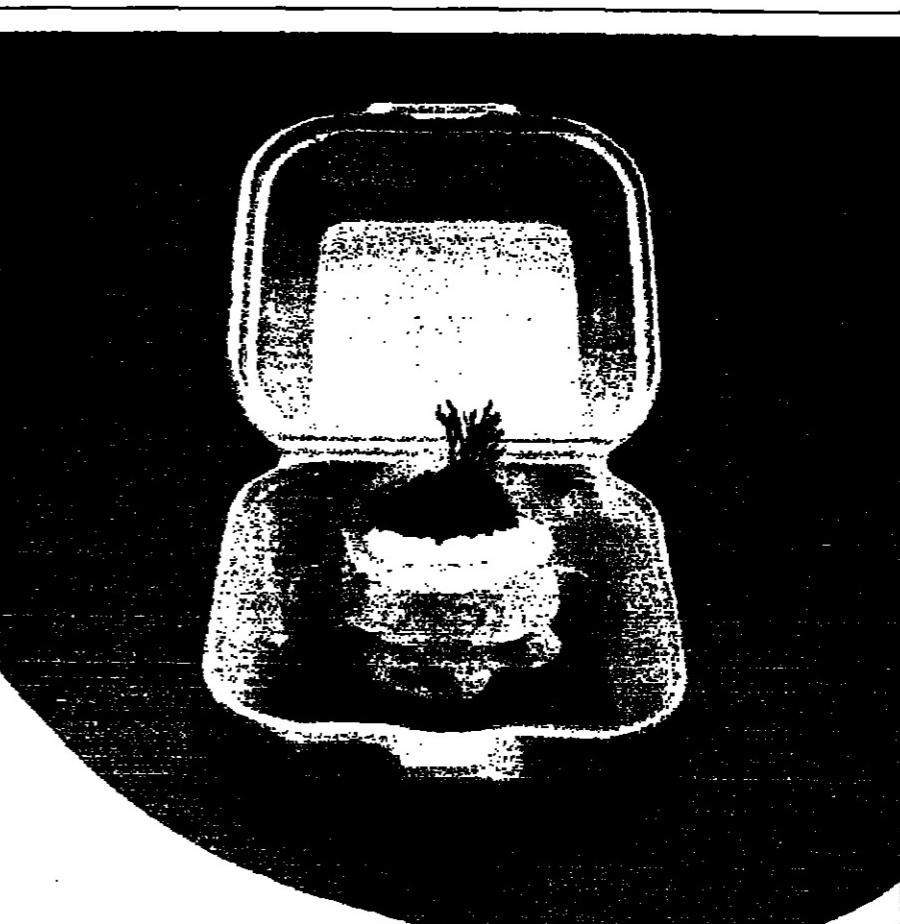
It was the first time England had beaten the world champions for 19 years — in May, 1956 they enjoyed a 3-1 victory over, again, West Germany.

### DETAILS

1950: England 3 Italy 2  
1950: Italy 2 England 2  
1950: England 2 Brazil 1  
1950: England 2 Italy 0  
1950: Uruguay 2 England 1  
1954: England 2 Uruguay 1  
1954: England 3 West Germany 1  
1954: West Germany 1 England 3  
1958: Brazil 2 England 0  
1958: England 1 Brazil 3  
1958: Brazil 1 England 1  
1962: Brazil 5 England 1  
1970: England 2 West Germany 0  
1970: West Germany 2 England 1  
1974: West Germany 2 England 1  
1974: England 1 Italy 2  
1982: England 1 Brazil 3  
1990: England 0 Brazil 1

night between had come a sequence of four encounters against Brazil, in which their best result was a 1-1 draw at Wembley in 1963 and the worst a 5-1 hammering at the Maracana in Rio in May, 1964. England had Charlton, Greaves and Moore, but Brazil had Pelé and the maestro destroyed England with a performance to savor.

England held their own for an hour but were a routed rabble by the end. Two years later they were on the brink of becoming world champions themselves.



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STOP

## FOOTBALL

**Keane not eager to play in Nigeria**

FROM RUSSELL KEMPSON IN DUBLIN

THE Football Association of Ireland (FAI) confirmed yesterday that Robbie Keane, the Wolverhampton Wanderers striker, would play for Ireland in the world under-20 championship finals in Nigeria in April.

Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, and Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, have both said they do not want Keane to play in Nigeria and the 18-year-old is not impressed either. Only the FAI, which takes great pride in the success of its youth sides abroad, feels the need to expose him to what is likely to prove an arduous trip.

A delegation from Fifa, the sport's world governing body, visited Nigeria recently and concluded that although the facilities for the tournament were barely adequate, they would do. In country in which little gets done at pace, and rarely without some form of discreet inducement, it was perhaps the best they could hope for. Small wonder that Lee, McCarthy and Keane share such grave doubts.

England have also qualified for the finals but Howard Wilkinson, in his role as technical director of the Football Association, has said that he will not call on players who are playing first-team football. As well as Keane, Ireland are likely to select Stephen McPhail of Leeds United, Richard Dunne of Everton, and Damien Duff of Blackburn Rovers.

Keane and Duff play for Ireland in their international match against Paraguay at Lansdowne Road tonight. McCarthy has made two changes — Roy Keane for Alan McLoughlin in midfield and Ian Harte for Steve Staunton in defence — from the side that lost 1-0 against Yugoslavia in their European championship qualifying tie three months ago. Paraguay have not played since losing 1-0 to France in the second round of the World Cup last summer. It is the first game for Evar Almeida, their coach.

IRELAND 14-2-0 S Green (Newcastle United) - D Irwin (Manchester United), K Cunningham (Wimbledon), G Brown (Covry City), I Harte (Leeds United), J McPhee (Sheffield Wednesday), P Keane (Manchester United), M Kinsella (Charlton Athletic), D Duff (Blackburn Rovers) — N Quinn (Sunderland), Robbie Keane (Wolverhampton), R Keane (Olympia) — J Valdes (Olympia), R Carter (Olympia), M Asusta (Sportivo Luqueno), I Diaz (Sportivo Luqueno), G Lopez (Paraguayan), Hacovi, C Parada (Sportivo Luqueno), E Aguilera (Cerro Cora), J Franco (Olympia), J Ortega (Atletico Argentino), T Gonzalez (Cerro Porteno), C Franco (Olympia), R Roman (Cerro Porteno)

Referee: G T Ormsen (Iceland)

## FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ MANCHESTER United aim to reward Alex Ferguson for his success at Old Trafford by making him the best-paid manager in Great Britain. The club has opened preliminary negotiations with Ferguson's advisers over a three-year deal worth £15 million. The deal would eclipse the £1 million-a-year that Ferguson earns at present at Old Trafford, including his bonuses, and will make the 57-year-old the highest-paid manager in the country.

■ Danny Murphy, the Liverpool midfield player, will return to Crewe Alexandra, his former club, on a month's loan this week. The 21-year-old has been unable to break into the first team at Anfield since his £1.5 million move from the Nationwide League first division club at the start of the 1997-98 season.

■ Ed Hansen, 26, the Denmark striker, has agreed to join Bolton Wanderers from Brondby for £1 million, pending a medical. He will be the fourth Dane on the books at Bolton.

■ Alessandro Melli, who scored for Parma in their 3-1 victory in the 1993 Cup Winners' Cup final, played in a trial match for Nottingham Forest against Scunthorpe United yesterday.

## RUGBY UNION

# Newcastle lose backing as Hall vision fades

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FIRST in, first out, the cynics will say after the news yesterday that Newcastle are to lose the backing of Cameron Hall Developments. The 1998 Premiership champions, part of Sir John Hall's dream of a sporting club to rival those of the Continent, will be left to stand on their own feet in a move which will have the employees of every club owned by one wealthy individual glancing over their shoulders.

Many in English rugby would claim that the sport would be better without the owners. This overlooks the massive investment — well over £30 million — made by those individuals since the game went professional in 1995. Sir John was the first to take advantage of the changed circumstances, by supporting Newcastle Gosforth.

But the sheer expense of the rugby operation and limited local support, together with the chaotic political landscape of the sport, have proved too much for Douglas Hall, Sir John's son, and Freddie Shepherd, the leading directors of Cameron Hall. Though they are prepared to sponsor the club to a degree, they will not continue to fund an organisation that has cost an estimated £9 million so far. The costs have included the move to Gateshead International Stadium, where five-figure crowds failed to materialise, forcing a return in November to Kingston Park.

There is, though, a significant difference between the struggling second-division

club that was taken over in 1995, and the competitive first-division outfit that Hall's money and the acumen of Rob Andrew has created. While it has been clear this season that the purse-strings have been drawn far tighter, with the sale of Pat Lam and Richard Metcalfe to Northampton during the summer, together with the release of the charismatic Dean Ryan to Bristol, Newcastle are a going concern in playing terms.

Andrew, the director of rugby, has drawn together a potent combination of experience and young talent — English talent such as Jonathan Wilkinson and Ian Peel — that has carried Newcastle to the last eight of the Twelfth Bitter Cup and to sixth place in the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

"The club would like to stress it is business as usual, with the team looking forward to a long and successful future," Andrew, preparing for the game against Richmond tonight, said.

It is not entirely surprising that Hall Junior and Shepherd have cut the umbilical cord, in the light of Sir John's withdrawal for health reasons to Spain. Sir John has become disillusioned with the relationships between the leading clubs and the Rugby Football Union, and many close to the club believed at the start of this season that there was little support for rugby outside that of their principal patron.

The possibility exists of mergers with other rugby clubs in the area. West Hartlepool, the bottom club in the first division, is regularly touted as a natural partner, but even closer at hand is Northern, who play four divisions below Newcastle in Northern I. Northern have had offers of up to £5 million for their ground, which would allow them to buy into the assets available at Kingston Park, where crowds have averaged just under 4,000 this season.

Richmond have been docked two league points after postponing their Premiership clash against Harlequins last November. The fixture on November 14 was rearranged because Reading Football Club needed the Madejski Stadium, which Richmond share, for a FA Cup tie. Richmond rejected Harlequins' requests to use Richmond's former Athletic Ground home in London, or to switch the game.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Monie relies on Reber

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

MARK REBER, the former North Sydney hooker, arrived from Australia yesterday and learnt that he will make his Wigan Warriors debut in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup fourth-round tie at Headingley on Sunday.

After a relatively injury-free ride to the JJB Super League title last year, Wigan are already readying for paring their squad this season to comply with salary regulations. Tony Smith, their only recognised scrum half, is out, for up to six weeks, with a hairline ankle fracture, which means Reber taking over as Jason Robinson switching from the wing.

Wigan delayed their preparations for the Leeds match until the arrival of Reber, whose last appearance was in the Australian Grand Final series last September. John Monie, the coach, who is undecided whether to start Reber at scrum half, hooker, or to bring him off the bench, said: "With first-grade experience in Sydney, he should be able to pick up what we do fairly quickly."

Eight signings, including five Australians — Paul Carnegie, Garen Casey, Bobby Thompson, Hudson Smith and Darren Brown — will

make their debuts for Salford Reds on Saturday in the return of last year's semi-final against Sheffield Eagles. Only David Hulme, Gary Broadbent, Steve Blakeley and Martin Crompton survive from the starting side beaten 22-18 then.

Program Planning Professionals, the London-based management consultancy, is to sponsor the University match for three years. Russell Smith, the 1998 referee of the year, will officiate when Cambridge, who have won five of the last six matches, meet Oxford at the Athletic Ground, Richmond, for a fourth year, on March 9.

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## FOR THE RECORD

## CRICKET

## International matches

Zimbabwe A v England A  
Zimbabwe, first day of five. England A  
won by 10 wickets against Zimbabwe A

ENGLAND A: First Innings

D L Mackay c Bignell b R Whistall 64  
M J Vaughan c R Whistall b String 120  
R J Tait c R Whistall b String 123  
R W Kay c Madondo b String 123  
A Farholt b R Whistall 2  
J S Tait c R Whistall 2  
D L Mackay c R Whistall b String 123  
Total 271-2, 19.3-47.2  
Umpires: R Garfield and D Alexander

Total (4 wickets) 266

G P Swann, t c M W Rees, D A Cosker, J D Lewin and S J Harrison to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-12, 2-14, 3-18, 4-17, 5-18

FALL OF WICKETS 1-19, 2-23, 3-24, 4-25, 5-26

BOWLING: G P Swann, J D Lewin, D A Cosker, J D Lewin and S J Harrison to bat

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**CRICKET 34**

Fairbrother basks in spotlight on world stage

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 10 1999

**RUGBY UNION 37**

Hall calls time on his great Newcastle adventure

**Wilkinson makes clean break with Hoddle era against the world champions**

## England return to what they do best

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD WILKINSON had laughed off a lampoon that painted him with a pair of pointy ears and called him Mr Spock. He was in full flow again, enthusing about being the England caretaker manager and beginning a comparison between his own situation and Cinderella's. "Careful," a friendly voice said from the midst of his audience as images of him with the ugly sisters or trying on a slipper embroidered with "FA" flashed across fertile minds.

Wilkinson took the hint, smiled slowly, closed his mouth and covered his eyes with his fingers. So far, nothing has disturbed his equilibrium, nothing has clouded his mood or robbed him of his good humour. He has said all the right things, praised all the right players, made all the right choices and taken full advantage of the goodwill that is being extended towards him precisely because he is not Glenn Hoddle. For someone waltzing his way through a honeymoon period, he has been a skilful romancer.

True to his word, he named his team to take on France, the world champions, at Wembley tonight, yesterday luncheon. In the manner of Bobby Robson's fondly recalled declaration — "Here's my team and we're coming to get you" — he laid a list of players out on the desk in front of him and read them out at breakneck speed.

The same goes for Darren Anderton, who will start the game tonight on the left flank.

Tony Adams, one of four Arsenal defenders in the side (the fifth, Nigel Winterburn, was also called into the squad yesterday) is known to be happier playing at the heart of a back four. Hoddle was not flexible enough to change his system to get the best out of the considerable talent available, but that failing seems to have been rectified.

The best players England

have got this week are better suited to a 4-4-2," Wilkinson said. "I hope they will be happier playing with a flat back four. I don't want anybody ringing me up tonight and telling me they are not because I intend to have a good night's sleep."

In many ways, Wilkinson cannot lose tonight. He will be the hero if England beat the team that won the World Cup almost seven months ago to the day. If England are beaten, then they will have been beaten by a fine side and, unless the manner of their vanquishing is utterly dispiriting, he will probably be entrusted with the far more important task of preparing the side for the European championship qualifying tie against Poland at Wembley on March 27.

However, Wilkinson has made it plain he is not in this just to improve his curriculum vitae. If that was the case, he would have taken the easy option, bowed to the wishes of the Football Association and consigned Paul Ince, who is suspended for the Polish game, to a place in the stand. Instead, he has picked him at the heart of the team alongside Jamie Redknapp, his Liverpool colleague.

Wilkinson is going all out for a win. His logic is that victory over Zinedine Zidane, Marcel Desailly, Nicolas Anelka et al will do much to repair the confidence of an England side that was shattered in the last months of Hoddle's troubled reign. He wants his team to go into the match against the Poles believing that they can beat anybody and if Ince helps to achieve that feeling, it will hardly matter that he will not be on the pitch at the end of March.

That, too, perhaps, is why Wilkinson has plumped for the iron defending of Martin Keown over the finery of Rio Ferdinand. Nor can anyone

blame him for that logic.

Wilkinson is going all out for a win. His logic is that

quibble with his selection of Lee Dixon. He may be 34, but he has been in outstanding form for Arsenal for the past two seasons.

Wilkinson denied that he liked his defenders to be functional and without frills and pointed to his championing of Mel Sterland and Tony Dorigo in his time at Leeds United as evidence of that. Yet he is also aware that Keown, Adams and Dixon know the guiles and pace of Anelka better than most.

Dixon's attitude yesterday

was typical of the new mood of optimism and levity that seems to have infused the England camp. He admitted that he had given up hope of ever gaining another cap after being discarded by Terry Venables. He joked about asking Adams to save him a seat at the dinner table on Monday night because he was nervous about arriving late after his call-up. "He did it," he said, "but by the time I got there, everybody else had gone."

He said that his daughter had started crying when he told her that he was going to play for England, because she thought that meant he was leaving Arsenal. "I was helping my son with his homework when I got the call from Howard," he said. "It was maths and to be honest I

PROSASLE WEMSLEY TEAMS			
ENGLAND (4-4-2)		FRANCE (4-4-2)	
D Dixon (Arsenal)	M Keown (Arsenal)	T Adams (Arsenal)	G Le Saux (Chelsea)
D Beckham (Manchester United)	P Ince (Liverpool)	J Redknapp (Liverpool)	D Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur)
M Owen (Liverpool)	A Shearer (Newcastle United)	L Thuram (AC Parma)	L Blanc (Marseille)
		M Desailly (Marseille)	M Vieira (Juventus)
		D Deschamps (Juventus)	E Petit (Arsenal)
			F Bocchioff (Internazionale)
			N Amoruso (Arsenal)
Referee: H Krieg (Germany)			
Kick-off: 8pm			

wasn't doing very well. It was a relief to have an excuse to go to the phone."

Wilkinson said that he did not know how he would pitch his first team-talk as England coach before the game, that he would judge it when the moment came. He said also that he would be nervous.

"I don't know what I will be thinking before the game," he said. "I'll probably be telling myself to concentrate. It will be a big occasion for me because making a debut is always one of the biggest games of your life."

Play on Cinderella and may the carriage not turn into a pumpkin when midnight chimes over the Twin Towers.

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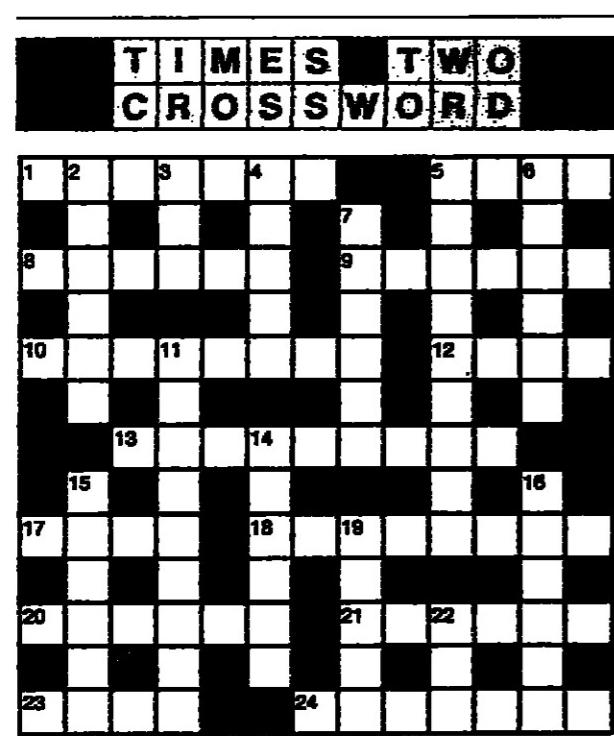
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No 1637

**ACROSS**

- 1 Of dark complexion (7)
- 5 Farewell; a gleam (4)
- 8 One soliciting money (6)
- 9 Seductive appeal (6)
- 10 Haunt; common (5)
- 12 Burglar's haul (4)
- 13 Ballet duet (3,2,4)
- 17 Catherine —, survived Henry VIII (4)
- 18 Amuse store (8)
- 20 Fish; got on by the hasty (6)
- 21 Bower (6)
- 23 Group of cooperating countries (4)
- 24 Pretended (7)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1636**

**ACROSS:** 6 Fruit machine 7 Humble 8 Bedsit 9 Peel 10 Dog-nosed 12 Dogwatch 16 Dose 18 Camber 20 Callow 21 Supernatural

**DOWN:** 1 Furbelow 2 Attend 3 Ragbag 4 Chad 5 Entice 6 Flute 11 Old Glory 13 Opaque 14 Throng 15 Hecate 17 Scowl 19 Beef

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Shearer: consulted

By MATT DICKINSON

ALAN SHEARER did not explain whether it was just a natural loyalty or whether he thought Glenn Hoddle truly was the right man for the job, but the England captain was adamant about one thing yesterday. His former coach should not have been sacked.

In a week when his international team-mates have not exactly been shouting "bring back Glenn", it was a jolt to hear Shearer's forthright defence of Hoddle yesterday. It was even more ironic given that an alleged clash between coach and captain was one of the sticks used to beat Hoddle, but Shearer was a picture of defiance as he swam against the tide of opinion that has washed the former coach out of the England post.

"I didn't think he should go," Shearer said. "I got on very well with him, I thought he was a very good coach and I had a lot of respect for him. The reaction [to the interview in *The Times*] amazed me. If it is true that he said it along similar lines in May, I am amazed that there was not that reaction then. I'm sure people were offended, but I

know he didn't mean to. I feel sorry for anyone hurt by his comments, but I know he didn't mean that."

Shearer's loyalty is to be admired, and it was evident in an exchange of supportive telephone calls with Hoddle last Thursday. One must presume that he also backed his former coach when he, among a few senior players, was sounded out by the Football Association as they contemplated

whether to dismiss Hoddle. Shearer would not discuss the contents of that conversation with David Davies, the acting chief executive of the FA, but it seems clear he found it uncomfortable, understandably so, for Shearer does not believe that the England players should be consulted when the FA considers Hoddle's successor — something that Davies has threatened to do.

"The powers that be will have to decide the way forward and whether to bring someone else in other than Howard," he said. "They haven't asked the players who it should be yet, and I wouldn't want them to. That is nothing to do with me. That is their job, my job is to play football."

"I'm not a chief executive, I'm not a politician. I have never been asked who should come in as manager before. We don't get paid to make those decisions. We just go out and do our best. We have to be professional about it."

Just as Shearer, ruthless professional that he is, will be

the epitome of conscientiousness when he leads England out tonight for his 47th cap. The first of those came against France in 1992 when he and Gary Lineker were the scorers in a 2-0 victory, and Shearer's tally now stands at an impressive 22.

Shearer takes his role of captaincy seriously — witness Ruud Gullit's declaration yesterday that the striker was his long-term choice as skipper at Newcastle United once Robert Lee leaves — and his standing has been critical this week as Howard Wilkinson has tried to smooth the turbulence left by Hoddle's departure.

"He wants the experienced players to take charge of the situation," Shearer said, "and that is what we have been trying to do. We know there will be great expectations and we need a good performance."

"The mood is fine. The new manager has cracked a few jokes and made everyone feel at ease. We can get great confidence from this game. We don't want to go into the Poland game on the back of a defeat. We want to go in with a nice feeling."

TV & RADIO WEATHER CROSSWORD LETTERS OBITUARIES A KALEISCI ARTS CHESS & RIVALS COURT & SOCIAL LAW REPORT BODY & MIND TRAVEL

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